

After completion of its renovation programme
PALESTINE HOSPITAL
Announces the opening of a
DEPT. of NEUROPHYSIOLOGY
(EEG - EMG - EVOKED POTENTIALS)
For further information
contact 664171/2/3/4
664196/7

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة نشرت بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Volume 17 Number 5249

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 4-5, 1993, RAMADAN 11-12, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King hosts Iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday hosted an Iftar in honour of the Jerusalem Construction Committee members, the mufti of Jerusalem, members of the Islamic Ifa and Awaqaf councils, Islamic judges in Jordan and the occupied West Bank and Christian clergymen. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's private Chamberlain Prince Ali, Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and Chief Islamic Justice Noah Salman. After the Iftar, Mufti of Jerusalem Suleiman Al Jaabani and President of Al Azhar University in Gaza Mohammad Awwad delivered speeches in which they congratulated the King on the occasion of the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The two lauded King Hussein's stands on various Arab issues and commended his leadership.

1 killed in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — A squad of guerrillas clashed with militiamen of the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) Wednesday inside the enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon. Security sources said one infiltrator was killed. The sources said the 15-minute, midday clash took place between the villages of Aramta and Rihan, 12 kilometres north of Marjayoun, provincial capital of Israel's self-styled "security zone." The sources said the infiltrators escaped in the direction of Iqlim Al Tuffah, a resistance stronghold that faces Rihan and Aramta.

Qatari leader sends greetings to Saddam

BAGHDAD (R) — Qatari heir apparent and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani sent Ramadan greetings to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Wednesday. INA said the congratulatory telegram marking the start of the Holy Month was sent in response to an earlier message sent to Sheikh Hamad by President Saddam. "Reciprocate best wishes on this holy occasion, pleading Almighty for a happy and prosperous return for you and the Iraqi people," Sheikh Hamad said in his telegram. President Saddam also exchanged congratulatory telegrams with the leaders of Oman.

Developer of oral polio vaccine dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Polish born medical pioneer Albert Sabin, who developed the oral vaccine that helped end the frightening threat of polio, died Wednesday. He was 86. He died at Georgetown University Medical Centre of congestive heart failure, said his daughter Amy Horne. Mr. Sabin has been admitted to the hospital on Feb. 22 after suffering heart failure, said spokeswoman Jody Klein. The oral vaccine that Mr. Sabin developed, along with an injectable type found earlier by Dr. Jonas Salk, helped eliminate the paralyzing disease. Mr. Sabin tested his vaccine on himself and his wife before it gained wide acceptance.

Defence lawyers quit Algiers trial

ALGIERS (R) — Defence lawyers in Algiers walked out of a special court trial of two fundamentalists Wednesday because it was held behind closed doors, an attorney said. The trial of Abdul Kader Boukchem and Mohammed Abdul Majid was the first by a special tribunal in Algiers armed with tough powers, including the death penalty.

Israeli guard stabbed in Jerusalem amid debate on future of Gaza Strip

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A Palestinian woman stabbed an Israeli security guard in Jerusalem's walled Old City Wednesday, puncturing his lung in the third attack targeting individual Israelis in three days.

The attack came amid a renewed debate over Israel's occupation of the crowded, impoverished Gaza Strip after three Israelis were killed by Gazans in the past two days.

Workers from Gaza were blocked from entering Israel for a second day after a 19-year-old Palestinian from the strip killed two Israelis and wounded nine Monday in Tel Aviv. On Tuesday, an Israeli who ventured into Gaza was shot to death.

The army clamped a curfew Wednesday on the Rafah refugee camp where the Israeli was killed Tuesday — and Israeli Radio said some 100 Palestinians were detained for questioning.

Police said the guard, wounded in Wednesday's stabbing, whose condition was described by doctors as fair, worked for a semi-nary founded by Messianic Jews

asserting a right to settle in all of the Holy City.

The woman, aged 35 and from nearby Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, was captured by a second guard, they added.

Arab-Israeli bloodshed has surged since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled to Lebanon 415 Palestinians in December. Jews have killed 52 Arabs and Arabs have killed seven Israelis — including the three since Monday.

The wounded guard works for Ateret Cohanim seminary in Jerusalem's Muslim quarter.

Hadassah Hospital said he was in fair condition, his lung punctured by the stabbing in his back.

Palestinians view the seminary's presence in the Muslim quarter as a provocation.

Police said the guards were escorting a Jewish woman and her two daughters who live in the adjacent Jewish quarter.

Jewish settlers demanded Mr. Rabin expel more Palestinians in response to the killing of Israelis. He expelled alleged members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and Islamic Jihad after the killing of six soldiers in De-

cember.

The expulsions stalled 16-month-old U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks. A senior Jordanian official said Tuesday that Arabs would meet this week in Syria to discuss the expellees and the talks.

Police said Wednesday they now suspect a Jewish extremist may have killed a 74-year-old Palestinian Tuesday since there was no evidence to support initial reports a motorist fired on the man in response to being stoned.

While violence has increased as well recently the occupied West Bank the debate Wednesday centred on the narrow strip along the Mediterranean Sea.

The question of what to do with Gaza — home to about 800,000 Palestinians — was raised by the media as well as members of parliament and cabinet.

The daily Yedioth Ahronoth entitled an editorial "Gaza, until when?" and questioned when Mr. Rabin would address his campaign pledge "to get Gaza off the streets of Tel Aviv."

The daily Al Hamishmar said (Continued on page 5)

Palestinians sceptical over American pledge of 'active' role in peace talks

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The American declaration made by Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his recent tour to the region that the U.S. would be an active partner in the Middle East peace negotiations took the Palestinians by surprise.

The Arab parties to the negotiations and the Palestinians had demanded American intervention on several occasions during the past 16 months of talks, hoping that the U.S. could influence Israel to budge on substantive issues, and thus achieve progress in the otherwise stalled negotiations, particularly on the Palestinian track. But former President George Bush's administration insisted on non-interference in the

talks, but ensured that the talks continued.

Mr. Christopher's declaration the U.S. would be taking an active part in the talks came as a surprise to the Palestinians, especially at a time when the talks were in suspension over Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion to southern Lebanon of more than 400 Palestinians.

The failure of the Security Council to ensure Israel's compliance with Resolution 799 — calling on Israel to immediately repatriate all the expellees — following a U.S.-brokered Israeli offer to take back only 101 of the evictees and the rest before the end of the year had placed fears within the Palestinian leadership on whether this American participation in the talks would indeed be positive. The U.S. had insisted

that Israel's offer was "in line with 799," leading the Security Council to welcome the offer as a "step in the right direction."

Already pressured by the U.S., the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the peace delegates now fear this pressure could increase if the U.S.'s active participation meant dealing with the basis of the talks — resolutions 242 and 338 — in the same way Washington dealt with 799.

"The implications of the U.S.'s handling of Resolution 799 has placed a dark shadow on 242 and 338," said Tayseer Arouni, an advisor to the Palestinian peace negotiators.

Mr. Arouni warned that if the American participation in the peace talks was along the lines of

Somalis declare weaponry, manpower

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's warring factions have declared their weaponry and personnel to a joint U.S.-U.N. ceasefire committee but it will probably take much longer than originally planned to disarm them.

The 15 factions were complying with a Tuesday deadline given a month ago by Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston, commander of U.S. forces in the country.

"They have all presented the information on heavy weapons and personnel. But the indications are that it is not 100 per cent satisfactory," U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said.

The factions have declared mortars, bazookas, rocket launchers and heavy machineguns. Many of them mounted on what the Somalis call "technicals," or pickup trucks used as battlewagons until U.S.-led forces landed in December.

Mr. Mawlawi told reporters the ceasefire committee had named 12 "cantonment" sites where the militias will deposit their heavy weapons, but there were problems with separate "transition areas" where the militiamen are meant to assemble.

The staff of the multinational task force could not find many of the sites proposed by the militias on their maps. "Maps have now been given to them and after the

Rabbani, Hekmatyar reach peace accord

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghanistan's president agreed Wednesday to share power with his main adversary in a bid to end months of brutal factional fighting that has left much of the capital in ruins.

According to a draft peace accord that must still be ratified by other rebel leaders, Burhanuddin Rabbani will remain as president for the next 10 months, while his fundamentalist adversary, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, will become prime minister, said presidential spokesman Mohammad Aziz Morad.

"All sides have shown flexibility," Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said after shuttling between Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar. "Hopefully the war and fighting in Afghanistan will end very soon."

The agreement still must be ratified by leaders of all nine groups that ousted the Soviet-backed communists last April after a 14-year civil war.

"Engineer Hekmatyar is ready to take up the post of prime minister and if there are no objections by the other groups we see, no difficulty to that effect," Mr. Morad said.

A few small differences remained, he said.

Mr. Rabbani was insisting on recognition of the assembly of nationwide delegates that last December elected him as president for the next two years but conceded to Mr. Hekmatyar's demand for general elections before his term expired, he said.

Mr. Hekmatyar has accused Mr. Rabbani of rigging his election and subjected Kabul to a fierce rocket and artillery bombardment to back his demand

that Mr. Rabbani step down to make way for an interim government.

"We can't refute the possibility that the government of Afghanistan will demonstrate flexibility in favour of peace and stability," Mr. Morad said, hinting that Mr. Rabbani may agree to step down earlier.

He insisted the sincerity of the negotiators coupled with Mr. Hekmatyar's failure to take power by force would guarantee the success of this latest in a string of Afghan peace formulas.

Deputy leader of the Hezb-e-Islami, Qazi Amin Waqad, said the party hoped for full success but declined to give details.

"There has been some progress and we are hopeful that we will reach an agreement," he said.

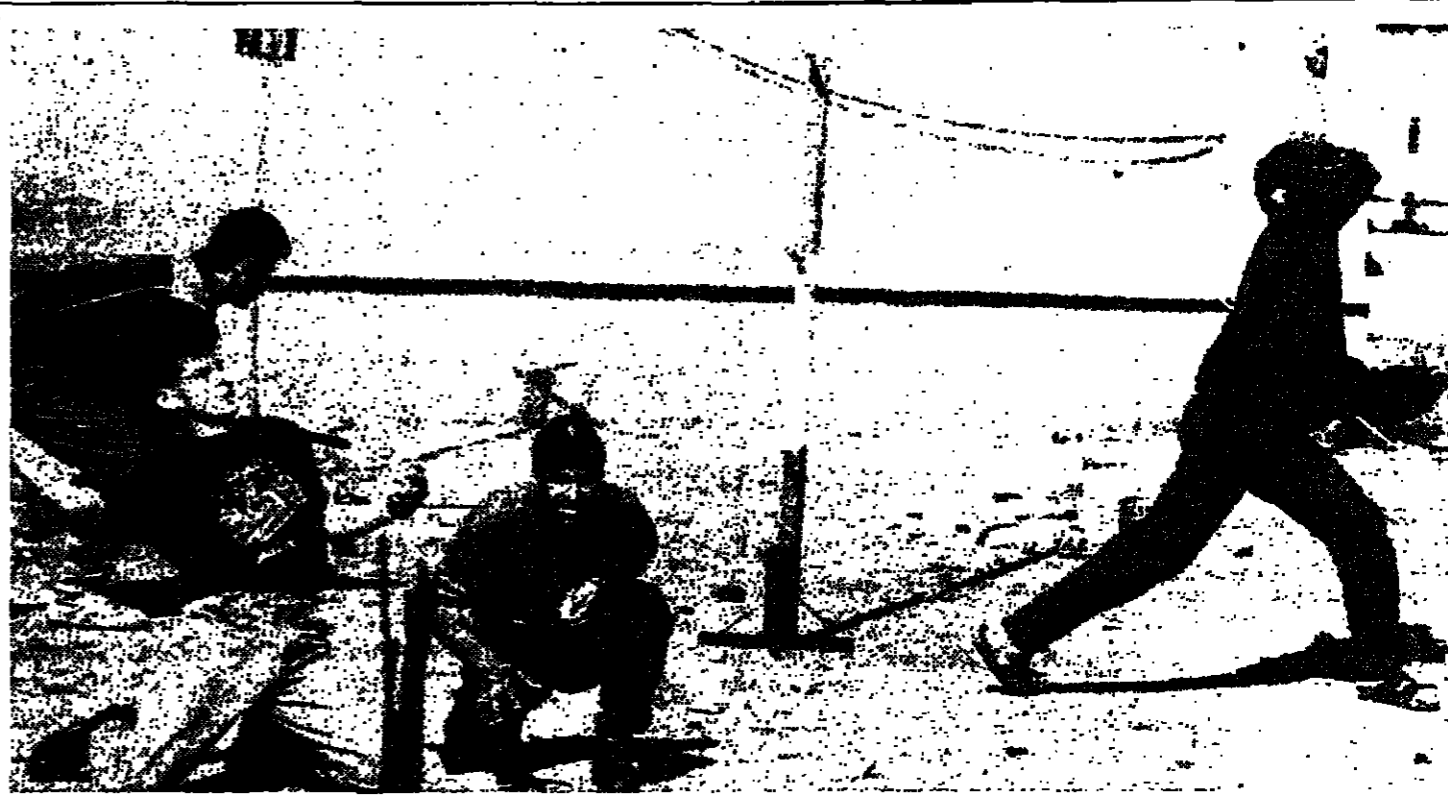
"The basic issue is the formation of an interim government acceptable to all sides."

President Rabbani shook hands with Mr. Hekmatyar, chief of the headline dissident Hezb-e-Islami party, at the prime minister's house in Islamabad before sitting down to discuss the Pakistani-proposed peace formula.

"The level of sincerity for the understanding reached gives assurance that whatever was decided will be implemented," spokesman Morad said.

The fundamentalist leaders were brought together by Mr. Sharif to try to negotiate an end to months of bitter fighting in Kabul that has killed and injured thousands.

Mr. Hekmatyar has previously refused to meet Mr. Rabbani in his capacity as president but only as leader of his Jamiat-e-Islami party, and the two had not met since last September.



Palestinian youths throw stones at Israeli soldiers in Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Voters will elect candidates who can serve them better in next polls — opinion survey

'Voter turnout will be double that of 1989 and political/religious ideologies and tribal links will be down the list for the electorate'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians will vote for candidates seen capable of serving them better in terms of providing services rather than raising promising ideological slogans in the Kingdom's next parliamentary elections, an opinion poll says.

The poll, conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan in January, also found that voter turnout would be almost double that of the last elections held in November 1989.

The survey, covering 1,197 voters from all over the Kingdom, found that the level of politicisation of the Jordanian electorate is very low, and that voters give priority to social and economic needs over all other considerations, be they religious beliefs or tribal/family links, according to sources close to the study.

The results of the survey, described by the sources as "widely representative" of the electorate, have not been released for public information in a marked contrast from other institutions which rushed their findings to the media leading to what many analysts describe as confusion among the readers.

According to analysts and University of Jordan students who took part in the poll, the findings represent what one of them called "a goldmine for analysts, political observers and researchers on Jordanian politics."

The poll was conducted by about 50 University of Jordan students trained and supervised by faculty staff during the third and fourth weeks of January. Field trips covered far-flung villages near Jordan's borders with Syria and Iraq as well as most other regions.

The target audience of the 68-point questionnaire was evenly split between randomly chosen males and females, and the margin of error was said to be five per cent.

The Centre for Strategic Studies confirmed that the survey was conducted, but declined to reveal any details of its findings, saying it was continuing to process the collected data.

Dr. Fawzi Ghareeb, president of the University of Jordan, said the centre, which was helped by the Department of Statistics in the survey, did not have any "political motivations or objectives" in conducting the poll or taking its own time in releasing its observations.

"It needs a scientific approach and analysis," he said. "We are (Continued on page 5)

U.N. team to visit 'new sites' in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A team of U.N. nuclear experts arrived Wednesday to check on reports that Iraq may still have an underground plutonium reactor.

Iraq denies it is carrying out any covert atomic activities, but the team of 24 weapons experts, armed with latest intelligence tips, plan to visit as many as 24 sites across the country during its week-long mission, team leader Dimitri Perriots said.

"We are going to look for everything," including reactors, uranium-enrichment equipment and procurement data, Mr. Perriots, a Greek, told reporters. His team has experts from 13 countries, includes three Americans.

"There is information that they may have something connected with nuclear," Mr. Perriots said.

"We have to go and take a look to see if the information is correct, the information is semi-correct or completely or partially wrong," Mr. Perriots told reporters after his team flew into Iraq from Bahrain, the regional headquarters of the U.N.'s special commission, which is mandated to seek and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction or its capability of producing them.

Mr. Perriots would not identify the new sites or say why the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), charged by the Security Council to neutralise Iraq's nuclear weapons programme, had not visited them during 17 previous inspections.

Mr. Perriots is leading his 10th session to Iraq.

He said IAEA inspections would continue because he believed Iraq was still far from full compliance with the nuclear inspectors. "It has not complied (Continued on page 5)

U.N. steps up relief in Iraq, page 2

Hamas 'surprised' at U.S. move to end contacts, rejects bomb charge

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said Wednesday it was surprised by an American announcement that Washington was cutting off all contacts with the group and that the American move could have come ahead of including Hamas in Washington's list of groups sponsoring "terrorism."

The group also regretted that it was suggested by American officials as a possible suspect in last week's blast at New York's World Trade Centre and called on Washington to withdraw "such irresponsible accusations."

Hamas officials have said that the group's strength and resistance activities would be confined to the occupied territories. They strongly deny Hamas involvement in terrorist activities or any

acts of violence abroad.

Hamas representatives in Amman asserted that the U.S. decision to cut off contacts with the group was aimed at appeasing Israel and contradicted the erstwhile American policy towards the group, which gained political prominence after Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion to South Lebanon of more than 400 Palestinians suspected of membership in Hamas or Islamic Jihad, another headline Muslim fundamentalist Palestinian group.

"We are astonished by the new American position, and it is proof of the influence of the Zionist lobby on the new American administration's policies," Hamas representative in Jordan Mohammad Nazzal told the Jordan Times.

"The United States' decision and justifications are a way of apologising to Israel for meeting

with us. We also see it as a way to justify labelling our activities as international terrorism," he said.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher Tuesday announced Washington's suspension of contacts with people associated with Hamas.

Hamas' representatives in Jordan met twice with an Amman-based U.S. diplomat, Eric Gaudiosi, following the Dec. 17 Israeli expulsion of Palestinians in what the group described earlier as an effort to explain its position to Washington and refute American assertions that Hamas was a terrorist group.

"The meetings were not simply contacts. There was an ongoing dialogue initiated by the Americans," Mr. Nazzal said Wednesday.

Mr. Boucher acknowledged (Continued on page 5)

Iran seeks good relations with Gulf states, but U.S. ties depend on Clinton

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian official urged in an interview published Wednesday good relations with pro-Western Gulf Arab states, but said ties with Washington hinged on President Bill Clinton dropping "hostile" policy towards Iran.

Ali-Reza Moayeri, President Hashemi Rafsanjani's foreign affairs adviser, blamed Egypt for regional "provocations" against Tehran.

Mr. Moayeri spoke in an interview with the Farsi language Hamshahri newspaper. An English translation was carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia.

He criticised Gulf Arab countries that have allowed the presence of "foreign powers" in the region, a reference to U.S.-led coalition forces that remained in the Gulf after liberating Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in Febru-

ary 1991.

"We have no need for the presence of alien forces in the region," he said.

Mr. Moayeri accused the United States and the West of fabricating reports about Iranian arms purchases to scare oil-rich Gulf countries into buying more weapons.

"I believe this is an organised and pre-planned programme of the West, the U.S. in particular," Mr. Moayeri said it was "too early to pass a judgement on Bill Clinton's policy towards Iran," but added that Washington must "abandon its hostile policy on Iran" before relations could be resumed.

Mr. Moayeri said Egypt was "a very important country for Iran." But he said Tehran was not ready, to resume ties with Egypt, severed after Cairo signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Mr. Moayeri said: "We see the

hands of Egypt involved in certain provocations in the region, including the issue of the Iranian islands."

Last September, Iran created a furor among Gulf states by claiming full sovereignty over Abu Musa, a tiny island which Tehran had jointly controlled with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Mr. Moayeri said Iran had extended a hand of friendship to the Gulf Arab states, but regretted their cold response.

"Iran has always announced readiness to cooperate with the 'Persian Gulf' states," Mr. Moayeri said. But "the Gulf states have not adopted a similar friendly stand towards Iran."

Mr. Moayeri also said Iran wanted good ties with Europe, but added Tehran would not revoke the death sentence against author Salman Rushdie.

Budget
CAR & VAN LEASING
TEL: 698 131



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday greets girl guides who collected donations in Irbid for the Third Annual Charity Campaign organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (Petra photo)

Princess Basma tours Irbid, Jordan Valley

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday made a tour of Irbid and the northern Jordan Valley regions where she inspected the activities of the Third Annual Charity Campaign which she launched at the beginning of Ramadan.

In Irbid, the Princess met with groups of boy scouts and girl guides who are collecting contributions from the public as part of the activities of the campaign organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

Princess Basma also opened a dress-making workshop at Prince Ali Club for Deaf Girls. Last year the Princess donated the funds to establish the workshop as part of the income-generating projects targeted by the charity campaign.

The JD5,000 workshop employs 12 deaf girls who received training last year at Irbid Social Services Centre.

Her Royal Highness also visited Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and inspected the social and health conditions of its patients. She met with several Irbid governorate deputies of the Lower House of Parliament, officials and private citizens.

The meeting involved a discussion of the ongoing activities of the charity campaign and its objectives. The Princess praised the role of the scouts movements in the governorate in bringing the campaign to a successful end and commended the public response to charity drive.

She said all donations collected in the governorate will be distributed to its needy and announced that she was donating 10 blood-testing units.

In the northern Jordan Valley, Princess Basma visited Al Hara-wiya Basic School where she inspected the conditions of the school's 80 students. The Princess presented the students with school uniforms and stationery.

Princess Basma ended her tour by meeting citizens at Sheikh Hassan village. The village mayor announced at the meeting the municipality's donation of eight dunums to QAF.

Her Royal Highness told the gathering that she was donating the cost of the establishment of a social services centre in the village. She then supervised the distribution of 22 tonnes of in-kind assistance to villagers in the town and surrounding areas.

The Princess also supervised the distribution of 10 income-generating projects to families in several villages.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King condolences Hiyassat family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delegated Chief of the Royal Protocol Mohammad Al Adwan to condole the Hiyassat family over the death of Abdul Fattah Hiyassat, the secretary general of the Jordanian Writers Association.

Prince Mohammad meets with PSD chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Wednesday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with PSD Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid. Prince Mohammad toured the various sections of the PSD's Command and Control Project and was briefed on its role.

Kabariti meets with German envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Wednesday met with German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners and discussed labour-related affairs. Their discussion covered Germany's assistance in finding more jobs for Jordanian workers and enhancing cooperation in workers' affairs.

Jordan invites Bahraini minister to labour conference

MANANA (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Bahrain Shaker Arabiyat Wednesday delivered a message to the Gulf state's Minister of Labour and Social Development Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa containing an invitation to attend an Arab labour conference in Amman. The conference, to open April 5, will be attended by Arab ministers of labour.

2 workshops to open on respiratory infections

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry is organising two workshops on March 6 and March 28 dealing with respiratory infections among children under five years of age. The workshops, to be attended by paediatricians from Jordan and other countries, are being organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

RSS plans solar energy meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) plans to organise a specialised seminar on solar energy in October. The five-day meeting will be attended by specialists from Arab and other countries.

Teachers to hold symposium on badia education

AMMAN (Petra) — The Teachers Club in Amman is organising a semi-regional symposium in April dealing with education of children in the badia and rural regions. The Ministry of Education and the regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will play leading roles in the four-day conference. The ministry said Jordan, Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine and the Arab League will be represented at the conference.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.).

★ Poster exhibition entitled "The British Film Makers of the 80s" at the British Council.

★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Centre in Zarqa.

House bars ex-ministers from panel to probe nepotism

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday formed a nine-member committee to probe civil service appointments in the last three years for possible nepotism and unfairness in filling government positions.

After one of the most heated debates in its current session, the House dissolved a previous 18-member committee set up to investigate the matter because it included deputies who had served as ministers.

The earlier committee was set up last month to study lists of names and qualifications of people employed by the government since the beginning of 1992, which the government provided

to the House at the request of 15 deputies.

The deputies demanded a public discussion of the issue in light of alleged nepotism and injustices in public sector appointments.

The House initially restricted the committee's membership to nine, but 18 deputies joined after the House failed to agree on its members and asked parliamentarians willing to serve on the committee to register their names with its executive office.

The House later agreed to increase the membership, but the controversial issue of whether deputies who are former ministers should be allowed to join the panel remained unsettled.

Many deputies have insisted that former ministers should be excluded from the committee be-

cause of the alleged conflict of interest that would arise over its work when appointments under these ministers are investigated.

The committee was thus plagued with problems since its formation and failed to hold more than one meeting.

Several committee members submitted their resignations to the House Wednesday, demanding that the House vote against permitting former ministers to join.

The demand prompted an angry response from deputies who had served as ministers. They argued that such a notion puts their credibility in question and denies them a constitutional right to participate in all functions of the House as elected officials. Opponents to their partici-

pation in the committee said their belief that former ministers should not be involved in studying government appointments was rooted in their concern to maintain the credibility and objectivity of the panel.

Irbid Deputy Husni Al Shiyab, who resigned from the previous panel, said the inclination not to include former ministers on the panel should not be seen as a conflict between deputies who served on the Cabinet and those who did not, but as a "way to make sure the committee was objective."

Former Minister of Labour Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, who volunteered for the dissolved panel, said if former ministers are to be banned from joining the committee, "deputies who had

pulled strings to secure jobs for others should also not be allowed to join."

Deputy Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh, a former minister, whose lengthy comment on the issue caused a row in the House, indicated that parliamentarians who say former ministers should not join the committee are driven by personal grudges and he challenged those deputies to "work in the light and give up false accusations and malicious representations."

"The House is engaging in a pointless debate," Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi said, adding that despite all the rhetoric and the fiery speeches, the House will not have the time to investigate government appointments before its term ends.

Dr. Abbadi suggested the House drop the issue in its entirety because it was too late for it to finish work on it.

The current and last session of the House concludes at the end of March.

During its four and a half hour session Wednesday, the House also referred to its Judiciary Committee the draft law on press and publications and the draft law on economic crimes. The two draft legislations were sent back to the House by the Upper House of Parliament after amending them.

The House also decided to hold three sessions a week instead of two, to make up for meetings that were aborted because of a lack of quorum.

New English School parents form group to tackle fee hikes

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Parents of students at the New English School (NES) have formed an 11-member committee to lead their campaign against what they describe as unjustified hikes in NES school fees.

Indications are also that the government, which usually adopts a hands-off policy in the financial and administrative areas of private schools in the Kingdom, is planning to intervene in the matter since secondary school students of NES staged a protest strike Saturday.

Beyond any immediate government action, the repercussions of the NES affair may also have major bearings on the status of all private schools in Jordan.

Parents, meeting at an NES school hall Tuesday evening, named the 11-member committee entrusted with contracting the parties concerned to present the case against the fee increases announced last week. Participants in the meeting said.

The committee is scheduled to meet with the principal of the school Saturday and report back to the parents on the outcome. One of the parents told Tuesday's meeting that her contacts with Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi indicated that the Cabinet discussed the dispute since students did undertake a protest action of a nature that warrants government attention.

About 250 parents also met at the school Saturday complaining that the fee raises were too steep. Many of them said they would not be able to afford the hike and would be forced to transfer their children to cheaper schools.

Parents denied that they had instigated the protest action by secondary school students who stayed away from class for two hours Saturday morning.

Tuesday's meeting also discussed the possibility that the issue could easily spill over and bring about additional legislation related to private schools.

A new law on education is under debate in Parliament and sources indicated that the government might be inclined to add new provisions to the draft legislation to allow a certain measure of government control on the financial and administrative aspects of private schools.

Under the present law, the Ministry of Education concerns itself only with the curricula, vacations and other strictly academic affairs of private schools. It also emerged during Tues-

day's meeting that Said Al Turk, owner of the NES who is vacationing in Europe, was showing signs of flexibility in the dispute after reportedly adopting a tough position immediately after Saturday's protest action by students.

The school administration Wednesday declined specific comment on the dispute.

"We did host Tuesday's meeting and we are in contact with all parties concerned," said Roger Foreman, deputy director of school.

"It is a private matter and not an issue for the press," he told the Jordan Times in an interview. "We have nothing more to say."

Parents complain that the increase in fees, which takes effect for the 1993-94 scholastic year, follows a similar hike for the 1992-93 year and amounts to a doubling of fees in two years.

They also say that the NES, being owned by an individual, seems to be run as a commercial business with priority for high profits rather than an educational institution.

Widely heard during Tuesday's meeting was a rejection of "one-man shows" run by people with little experience in the art of education at the administrative decision-making level of any school.

Suspects under questioning in 2 separate murder cases

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police are questioning several suspects in two separate cases of murder which were discovered this week and hope to announce the findings of investigations soon, a senior source said Wednesday.

The source said there was no indication whatsoever of any link between the two deaths despite some similarities in the circumstances under which the bodies were discovered.

"We can categorically state that there is no relation between the two crimes," said the source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

The gagged body of Abdul Hameed Salman, 30, member of a hardline Palestinian group, was found stuffed in a black plastic bag in a backstreet of the Baqaa camp Saturday. His hands and feet were tied and the cause of death was established as strangulation.

The body of Ayman Al Abbadi, 25, a first lieutenant in the Armed Forces, was discovered

Monday near the cigarette factory in Ras Al 'Ain; Abbadi was also strangled and his body was wrapped in a plastic bag, according to police reports.

Contrary to earlier reports, the source said, police were keeping the "possibility open" that the killing of Salman was politically motivated.

"Police understand that the murder victim was politically active and therefore they cannot rule out the possibility that the crime had political motivation," said the source. "At the same time it also appears that he was also having social problems. So all the investigators are keeping all angles."

Salman was a member of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, who broke away from the PFLP of George Habbash in the early 1970s to set up his own group. Salman was politically active but did not occupy any official position in the group's hierarchy, according to Palestinian sources.

Some of the sources say that "personal revenge" could be the

reason for the killing, particularly that it was apparent that the man was brutalized before his death.

In the case of the Ras Al 'Ain incident, "it is possible that the murder had a family contest. But it is too early to reach any conclusions," said the senior source without elaboration.

In both cases, "suspects are being questioned, and police hope to make an announcement soon," the source added.

The source said "there is nothing new" in a series of attacks against shops in and around Amman since mid-September.

But, noted the source, "no new attacks have been reported since the arrest last week of three suspects who have confessed to executing at least three attacks."

At the same time, "it does not mean that the three are linked to the earlier crimes," said the source, referring to nine other incidents of assault and robbery which occurred since mid-September.

"Police are continuing investigations and will definitely crack the cases," said the source.

U.S. grants Jordan \$31m in 5 economic aid agreements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five U.S. economic aid agreements totalling a grant of \$31 million were signed with Jordan Wednesday, by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz for the Government of Jordan and by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison for the U.S. government.

The agreements were also signed by William T. Oliver, Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Under the agreements, USAID will grant Jordan funds to implement new projects and to improve on ongoing projects in the fields of water management and conservation (\$23.3 million); agricultural development and marketing (\$4 million); family health and primary care services (\$2.5 million); and industrial development and marketing (\$1.2 million).

The water quality improvement and conservation project, to be implemented by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation over a five-year period, will focus on improving the management of water resources, and on increasing the quality and quantity of water available in the Zarqa Basin System through improved wastewater treatment and water conservation.

The various components of the project will include: The clean-up and prevention of industrial and other water pollution by upgrading the As-Samra wastewater treatment system;

— the improvement of water resources management and water conservation through the establishment of a special "Ministry water monitoring and management unit";

— the maximisation of irrigation water management through the upgrading of the water conveyance system from the King Talal Reservoir to the Zeighan Division; and

— a public education and awareness campaign in water management and conservation that will be undertaken by a local private sector voluntary society.

The primary objective of the family health services project is to improve the quality and cost-efficiency of primary care services, particularly mother and child care and birth spacing services, provided by government health centers and clinics.

The funds will also be used for technical assistance to improve the quality of existing services, to train Jordanian doctors, and to

establish a new family medicine training programme at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University for Science and Technology.

National agricultural development project is a nine-year project started by the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) in 1986 to stimulate greater agricultural production through applied research and improved extension services methodologies.

The agricultural marketing development project, which started in 1988, aims at reducing the balance in Jordan's trade deficit and at generating foreign exchange earnings through the stimulation of increased Jordanian exports and the development of marketing systems and strategies for agricultural exports, particularly fruits and vegetables.

The primary objective of the industrial development project is to raise the efficiency of Jordanian manufacturers in the production and marketing of quality industrial products at competitive prices.

The funds provided will focus on developing the Industrial Engineering Programme at the University of Jordan.

Arab panel to study educational broadcasts to occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will participate in a meeting of a pan-Arab educational committee on producing programmes to be broadcast to the Arab students in the Israeli occupied territories.

A statement here said the programmes, to be presented on Radio and television, follow a set curricula of general educational programmes in the Arab World which are lacking in many Arab educational institutions under Israeli occupation.

The week-long meeting, scheduled for May in Tunis, will review previous experiments in

such broadcast and their effect on the Arab students in occupied lands.

According to Ministry of Education sources here, Israeli authorities have frequently changed syllabuses, closed schools, shut down universities and constantly interfered in educational programmes and the activities of teaching staff at Arab educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The sources added that the Ministry of Education takes the major responsibility for preparing these programmes for broadcast

and is helped by several organisations in Jordan, as well as the Arab League.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will include representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, which presents the programmes, and the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

The meeting will also be attended by delegates from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq as well as the Arab League and the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU).

A message from

Klyman
Music International (KMI)

Are you paying too much money for CD's?
Are you still buying poor quality pre-recorded cassettes?

KMI is proud to be the first in Jordan to offer master cassettes and CD's from the manufacturers directly to you at quite reasonable prices. Come and see our daily increasing selection of cassettes and CD's.

SPECIAL OFFER

- Prescience Clear Water Flowers C.D. JD 16,900
 - The Body Guard C.D. JD 17,900
 - The Body Guard M.C. JD 2,900
 - Chab Khaid extended mix M.C. JD 2,900
- And many many more

LOCATION: Swefish, near Al Mazar Supermarket

☐ New Supermarket
☒ Klyman
☐ 1234 ← Arab Bank
☐ Al Jazira Supermarket

AIR FRANCE
ASK THE WORLD OF US

GO TO EURODISNEY WITH AIR FRANCE,
MICKEY'S PREFERRED CARRIER WITHIN EUROPE
4 NIGHTS IN PARIS AND
2 NIGHTS IN EuroDisney
FOR ONLY 550 JD.

MICKEY'S EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

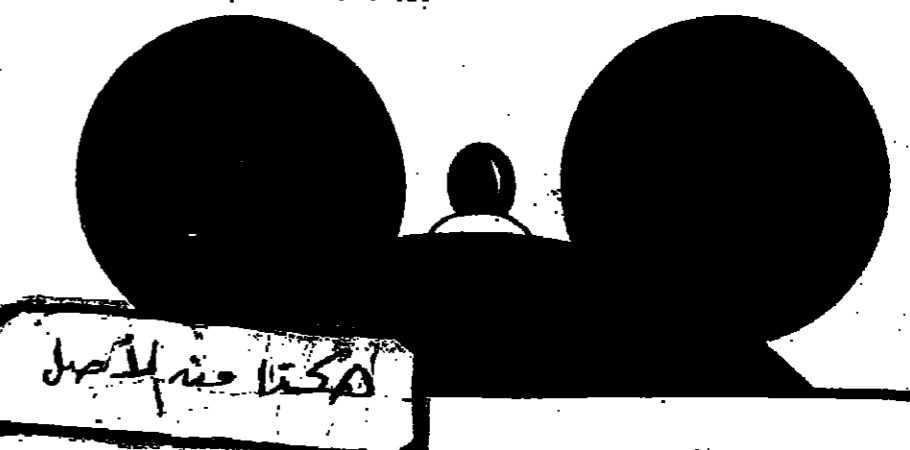
- 1- ROUND TRIP TICKET TO PARIS.
- 2- 4 NIGHTS IN PARIS INCLUDING BREAKFAST.
- 3- 2 NIGHTS EURODISNEY.

OFFER VALID UNTIL END OF MARCH '93

FOR MORE DETAILS:

CALL AIR FRANCE 666055

OR INTERNATIONAL TRADERS 661014



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الزمانة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Bosnians need more than meals

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's decision to airdrop food and medicine to Bosnian Muslims trapped in the eastern parts of the country is commendable but is a far cry from what the president promised during his presidential campaign.

Mr. Clinton was then visibly driven by moral values and humanitarian considerations when he called for making distinctions between the Serb aggressors and the Bosnian Muslims by lifting the arms embargo on the besieged Muslims in that country and even deploying U.S. armed forces for their rescue. President Clinton was angered and anguished then by the barbaric atrocities that Serbian forces committed against the Muslim people and decided that his country is morally obligated to act.

In spite of the continuation of the agony and suffering of the Muslim Bosnians, the new president appears to have lost his nerve and drive to help out the victims of Serbian aggression, to stop the systematic rape of Bosnian women and girls and to halt "ethnic cleansing."

In so wavering on an earlier commitment to seek and apply effective assistance to the victims in former Yugoslavia, the new president seems to have buckled under pressure from his European allies and warnings from his army generals and in the process lost his distinctive features as a liberal leader who promised to stand tall and strong in support of human rights and humanitarian law.

This American attitude is marked contrast with that of the Russian leadership. The Russians do not even bother to hide their open support of the Serbs by boldly supplying them not only with sophisticated arms and equipment but also with fighters as well.

The Bosnian Muslims need and deserve more than aerial dropping of urgently needed meals and medical supplies. There is no less than 20,000 Bosnian Muslims currently trapped in the Cerska region, desperately trying to flee the war zone while the eyes of Mr. Clinton and other Western leaders are turned away from the tragedy that requires urgent remedy. This U.S. disloyalty and unfaithfulness to its own ideals and principles comes at a time when the conflict in former Yugoslavia offers the first test case for Washington's true commitment to democracy, human rights and humanitarian principles.

It behooves President Clinton to be loyal to his electoral campaign pledges especially on matters that touch on human lives and human rights. The Bosnian Muslims need effective help before the Serbs succeed even more in changing facts in the field. The least they need is the supply of arms to defend themselves against an enemy that is openly aided by Moscow.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS WAS expected from the Israeli government in the wake of the killing of two Israeli men and the wounding of eight others in Tel Aviv at the hand of a Palestinian man, further stringent measures have been imposed on the Arab population, said Al Dastour daily in its editorial Wednesday. The paper said that the Israeli government considered the incident a mere security one, requiring hardening of the internal security in the face of the Palestinians. The Israelis have imposed more repressive measures and threats to deport more Arabs from their homeland in retaliation for the Tel Aviv attack, instead of dealing with the root of the problem, which is linked to occupation and continued repression, the paper said. It said that by resorting to atrocities in reaction to the Tel Aviv incident Israel is falling yet again in further blunders that have led to the complication of this situation. The first reaction was to seal off the whole of the Gaza Strip, imposing curfews on 750,000 people and terrorising women and children there, continued the paper. It said that the Israelis have no other policy except terrorism and aggression, which has given rise to the cycle of violence. In no way, said the paper, can this siege on Palestinians, who refuse to succumb to occupation and repression, attain its purposes, nor can such atrocities help the Israelis to live in peace. The paper said that the peace process, which Israel claims to be keen on maintaining, should be manifested in towards a just solution to the problem.

THE LONG queues outside the Saudi Arabian consulate in Jabal Amman reflect the fervent religious faith and the desire on the part of Jordanians to perform this year's pilgrimage, one of the tenets of Islam, said Mohammad Subeichi, a columnist in Al Dastour. The writer said that the queues can be seen from the early morning hours continuing throughout the day, clearly indicating that the Saudi officials are not only slow in issuing the visas for the would-be pilgrims but that they are unwilling to end the suffering of the huge numbers of the faithful outside their office. It is the right of the Saudi government to control the flow of pilgrims to Mecca and introduce measures ensuring security for all pilgrims and the country as well, yet simple procedures are required at the Saudi consulate to ease this situation, said the writer. He said that passports can be collected at the time during the day and distributed with visas stamped on them the next day without keeping people waiting in a line all day. The Saudis could also publish the names of those they issued visas and those rejected, for any reason, in the local press, suggested Subeichi. He said that although efforts on the part of officials are appreciated there is an urgent need now to find a way to ease the situation and to issue visas to the pilgrims as soon as possible.

By Jansen Partners

TWO POWERFULLY emotive forces — national liberation and militant Islam — are coalescing after a long period of divorce and antagonism. The coalescence is observable today, very obviously, in the struggle of the Palestinians — and particularly in the case of the 400 expellees alleged to be activists of the militant Islamic grouping, Hamas. The coalitions between Islam as an identity and national liberation is also present in the struggles going on in Kashmir and Bosnia.

In these two cases, people defined as different from their neighbours only by religion are fighting for either liberation, as in Kashmir, or survival, as in Bosnia. And militant Islamic guerrillas from outside have turned up to fight on the side of their coreligionists in both Kashmir and Bosnia, grafting themselves and their cause onto the national causes of their hosts.

In the recent past, a good, clear example of coalescence between national liberation and militant Islam was provided by the struggle of various Afghan groups against the invading Russian forces and, on the inside, against the Russians' local Communist Party ally. For years, the opposition in the so-called Afghan civil war was led by secular nationalists but when the capital city Kabul fell, it was the Islamic groups, though squabbling with each other, who were in the lead.

The coalescence to which we are referring is of a particular type and comes in stages. There is an existing secular, non-Islamic political struggle and Islam grafts itself onto this and in the end

Islam becomes the sustaining carrier wave, the sustaining motivation, of the political struggle. This is a new phenomenon, which we are seeing in Bosnia.

This development is to be distinguished from what happened during the 150 years in Muslim countries where, because Islam is a comprehensive all-embracing creed, the political struggle against the Western imperialist rulers was Islam itself inspired by the faith and led by men of religion. A particularly clear case of the total encapsulation of the political struggle of the Umma, the Muslim Nation, by Islam was the Achense wars against the Dutch in north Sumatra in the 1880s which were led and organised by Ulema from start to finish.

But Islamic domination of the popular uprising was evident in many Afro-Asian countries besides Indonesia, in Afghanistan, the Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco and West Central Africa. Secular political parties were relative late-comers in the national struggle, anything from 20 to 40 years after the Islamists, and as soon as they appeared they were in direct competition with the earlier Islamic groups. This competition was most clearly evident in Indonesia in the tussle between the Islamic parties — the Masjumi and the Nahdlatul Ulema — and the National Party led by Sukarno and Hatta. There were two

reasons for this antagonism: in principle, Islam deplores secular creeds like nationalism and Communism which are alternative faiths and which also tend to divide the one, universal Islamic community according to geography or class. Furthermore, and more practically, the Islamists and the nationalists were jostling each other to become the successor power to the imperial rulers.

Despite the preponderant role that Islam played in the resistance movement, it was the late-comer nationalism which became the successor to the former imperial ruler and it was the nationalists who established the independent states of Afro-Asia. Almost their first task was to crush the opposition of the Islamists (and to a much lesser extent of the leftists).

For about 30 years, from 1950s onwards, there was a complete divorce between secular nationalists and Islamists who were often locked in bloody battle with each other across the entire sweep of Afro-Asia, from the Philippines to West Africa.

Thus the present coalescing of the former antagonists is something new, and a reversal of recent history.

This is not a marriage of convenience, more a shot-gun wedding, an alliance brought about by external pressure. In Afghanistan, such external forces were and are the U.S., Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran which for a

National liberation and Militant Islam Coalescence of antagonists

variety of reasons do not want to see the secular nationalists coming to power and whose money and arms, provided to the Islamists, enabled them to prevail over the nationalists. And this same process is underway in the Palestinian struggle, with a secular Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) managing to hold its own against Islamic Hamas despite foreign assistance from Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

It is not as if the external supporters of militant Islam, both Muslim and non-Muslim, really want to see the fundamentalists win but that, shortsightedly, they believe they can use the Islamists to defeat the imminent threat posed by the nationalists; a stupid manoeuvre which usually ends with the anti-nationalists facing the far more dangerous threat of a militant Islam which they have helped build up. This has happened in Afghanistan and is happening in Palestine, where Israel must now regret the encouragement it originally gave to Hamas in the hope that it would be a counterweight to the PLO.

There is one other reason why the Islamic grafting becomes possible, a passive, negative one instead of positive assistance from outside. The forces opposed to secular nationalism, such as the U.S., the West generally and the local surrogates of the West, see to it that the nationalists fail in their efforts of assertion so that

the disillusioned populace turns to militant Islam which, by the grace of God, seems better able to deliver "the goods".

This second variety of encouragement to militant Islam is observable both in Palestine and in Bosnia, but more clearly in the former than the latter. Thanks to the obduracy of Israel, sure of its support from the U.S., the more so under the Clinton administration, the 15-month-long peace process has produced no positive result, thus fulfilling the warnings of Hamas that the PLO's policy of talking with the enemy was a waste of time.

In Bosnia the seemingly-deliberate refusal of the Christian Western powers to help Bosnian Muslims against the Orthodox Serbs and the Latin Christian Croats is so glaringly obvious that the Bosnians, though reluctantly, have had to turn for help to their Muslim brethren, even though those brethren are not able or willing to do much for them.

Proof that the West has decided that, come what may, there must not be a Muslim state within the geographic confines of Europe, which is a Christian continent, is the chopping-up of Bosnia with its Muslim plurality, into a patchwork of 10 cantons, only three of which would be Muslim.

After the take-over of national liberation by militant Islam in Afghanistan, it is perhaps

appropriate that among the Muslim volunteers with the Bosnians are "the Afghans". Muslim guerrillas of various nationalities who trained and gained fighting experience with the Afghan Mujahideen. Members of this "Foreign Legion" are appearing in other Muslim countries where militant Islam and secularism are in conflict, such as Algeria, Egypt, Somalia and so on.

Secular nationalism, having taken over the popular struggle from militant Islam, in a return match, is itself being taken over by the latter, mainly because of independent nationalist states are perceived as having failed to give their citizens a good life and something to believe in. Certainly, as compared to the nationalists, the Islamists are more committed, disciplined and less corrupt.

It is doubtful whether members of the secular Palestinian groups, Fateh, the Popular Front and others would have endured the hardships of the expellees' camp in southern Lebanon with the same determination as the followers of Hamas. But whatever the moral qualities of the Islamists, if every political struggle in the Third World against, for instance, the sole superpower, the U.S., is to be taken over by the Islamists, the result would be a succession of religious wars, of crusades versus Jihads — a daunting prospect.

This article appears simultaneously in the Jordan Times and the Middle East International



Jordanian Communist Party

Preparing for a new era

In the first of a series of articles profiling political parties in the Kingdom, Sausan Ghosheh talks to the head of the Jordanian Communist Party about the goals of a movement whose basic ideology has been shaken by many developments in the world.



Yacoub Zayadin: Adapting Marxism to Jordanian society

AMMAN — "Free Country and happy people" is the motto of the oldest party in Jordan that is still present in the country's political arena today: The Jordanian Communist Party (JCP).

Free, the JCP believes, Jordan can be through strengthening the roots of democracy. And by a fair distribution of goods and services; "social justice," the Communists hope to bring happiness to the people. Social justice, says party secretary general Yacoub Zayadin, will culminate in a socialist society.

Since its formation in 1951 by Marxist and national liberation movements in Jordan and Palestine, the JCP has undergone significant changes both in its methodology and ideology.

The JCP still adheres to Marxist ideology, which it preached for decades, but it now uses Marxism as a guide to its work and not as a text to be taken verbatim, says Dr. Zayadin. "The JCP is attempting to adapt Marxist ideology to Jordanian society," says Dr. Zayadin, one of the JCP founders and its head since 1986.

Marxism entered the Arab World in its Stalinist form and paid no attention to Arab culture and heritage and thus failed to appeal to the masses. According to Dr. Zayadin, the JCP is currently studying Arab history, literature and philosophy, focusing on progressive and just ideas in them in order to develop them.

The fall of the Soviet Union has led some members of the JCP to lose faith in the ideology and the party. This, accompanied by tribal affiliations, has caused divisions and dissensions within the party, the most recent being the Freedom Party and the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party.

Dr. Zayadin stated that dissensions have occurred in many Jordanian parties, despite their ideologies, and that the JCP still has "strong roots" in society.

limitations and to reduce the hierarchy in its ranks to allow for more democracy and open dialogue.

These reforms were mainly triggered after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which the JCP attributes to the lack of democracy in the country and in the party's structure.

The JCP claims to be a politically, economically and organisationally independent political party, with the bulk of its money obtained through membership fees and donations. It is composed of workers, peasants, intellectuals and women.

Dr. Zayadin says women compose approximately 20 per cent of the JCP members, refusing to reveal the total membership. Some women, such as Emily Nafa, have reached top positions.

The relatively new democratic atmosphere in Jordan has permitted the JCP to operate in the open, after working underground for nearly 35 years. Dr. Zayadin claims the JCP was a target of imprisonment and torture since the mid 50s up until the parliamentary elections in 1989.

But now that it has acquired legal recognition, the JCP plans to enter the parliamentary elections, scheduled for November — and for the first time in its long history, it will contest election under its own name.

In the fifties, the JCP participated in the elections under the banner of the Nationalist Front and won a few seats; and in 1989 individual members of the JCP ran but not the Party. The candidates, however, did not have a strong showing in the 1989 elections and they attribute this to the fact that they were not allowed to operate public.

Now after the JCP obtained its license and after four years of the liberalisation process, Dr. Zayadin says his party's chances for a better showing in the elections have improved.

Containing Russia

A task for the future?

By Brian Beedham

LONDON — The democracies of the Atlantic world may soon have to make a hard decision about Russia. The way things are going in Moscow, the flagging liberalism of Boris Yeltsin may not stay in command of events much longer.

If Russia then lurches off down a different road, the democracies will have to choose. Do they still treat Russia as the centerpiece of their policy towards the ex-Communist world, or does the building of the necessary precautions against this different Russia become the new centerpiece?

The end of the Yeltsin period and the arrival of a surlier Russia are not yet certainties, but they suddenly seem much likelier than recently.

Mr. Yeltsin himself, so recently claiming to be "master" of his country, has had to make concession after concession to the conservatives and nationalists who dominate Russia's parliament. The Russian economy staggers along the brink of hyperinflation, its chances of not falling over the edge depending largely on how much money is printed by a central bank whose attitude towards money-printing is that of the purple-robed man who keeps on saying one more drink can't hurt.

The Russian army, now of dubious utility for military purposes, is said to be thinking of going into politics instead. If things do snap, the result will not be a return to Marxism. The Russians have had enough of that. But it could be a period of grumpy conservatism, in which Russia turns its back on the world while it fiddles hopelessly with its own economy. Or it could be a spell of populist nationalism, in which Russia gets pugnacious about the rights of Russians living in other parts of the ex-Soviet Union (The Serbia option, you might say). Or Russia could just disintegrate, into three parts or 20.

In any of these cases, it will no longer make much sense to think of Russia as a natural partner for the West. The new Russia will be too chip-on-shoulder, or too busy with its own concerns, to be of any help to the democracies in coping with the turbulent end-of-the-century world. Its own hopes of becoming a proper democracy will be in at least temporary suspension. The map may no longer even contain a recognisable Russia.

There will still be things to be done with this Russia, or its fragments. Hard work will still be needed to keep its nuclear weapons under control, and to persuade it not to sell its tanks and guns throughout Asia and Africa. But these things will add up to a policy of containment, not of cooperation — because Russia will no longer wish to cooperate.

Attention will then inevitably turn to the tangle of countries between Russia and the West — from Poland and Hungary to Belarus and Ukraine and, out there on the flank, Kazakhstan and the other Muslim parts of the old Russian empire. And here will come the hard decisions.

These countries will call for help. They will be alarmed about the effect on themselves of a further collapse of the Russian economy. They will be afraid of Russian nationalism turning from windy talk into brutal action.

They will point out that Russia still has nuclear weapons but that they (apart, conceivably, from Ukraine) do not. Even those physically most distant from Russia and farthest along the road to free-market democracy — the Czechs, Hungarians and Poles — will be frightened.

It will be hard to ignore their appeals. The worse things go in Russia, the more important it is that the people of the middle ground between Russia and the West should be helped to build up their own economic efficiency and democratic stability. That means, among other things, keeping them from falling back into the grasp of a Russia that has gone wrong.

It is not merely for the satisfaction of good-hearted Western liberals that this will need to be done. In pure self-interest, the democracies cannot afford to see a bad-tempered, nationalist post-Yeltsin Russia push its zone of influence back towards the border of Germany. Much of what the democracies' cold war victory had won would then be lost again.

If Russia does go wrong, the democracies will have to reorganise their policy east of the River Oder. The only thing that could make this untrue would be for an even bigger problem country — China — to go wrong too.

So far, China's recent combination of astonishing economic growth and still dictatorial government has caused no serious difficulty for the West. But this may not continue. If China's growth goes on rocketing upward, without turning the country into a democracy, there could be trouble.

There are already signs that a rich but still Communist-run China will seek to make itself a global military power. That is almost bound to lead it into a clash with the democracies.

If it does, the democracies may have to swallow their dislike of a Russia changed for the worse because a China changed for the worse would be even more worrying. A nuclear-armed authoritarian China with well over a billion people and a high-technology army and air force is an awesome thought. It could even justify keeping Russia (which would find it equally awesome) as the West's ally.

As Winston Churchill said in 1941, explaining his decision to back Stalin against Hitler, you sometimes have to take the devil as your friend.

But if this does not happen — if a richer China turns out to be a liberal, peaceful China — big eyes swing back to the west and southern neighbours of Russia.

If post-Yeltsin Russia is the troublesome place it looks like being, Europe and America will have to revise a long neglected agenda. The European Community (EC) will need to consider far speedier membership for those of Russia's neighbours that have begun to look seriously pluralist. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will have to draw some sort of line against the reexpansion of Russian nationalism. Once again, it may be necessary to explain to Russia why nuclear blackmail will not work.

International Herald Tribune

Opinion poll indicates preferences

(Continued from page 1)

processing the information and will not keep anything back when we decide to release it."

The survey was financed by a grant from the Washington-based National Endowment for Democracy.

"We are a non-partisan, un-biased academic institution and we do not want to politicise the issue," said Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the centre.

"We will release the findings of the study in due time after properly collating the information and analysing the data," he told the Jordan Times, indicating that the centre would go public with the findings after the holy month of Ramadan.

The sources who provided some of the results of the opinion poll could not offer precise percentage points vis-a-vis various opinions and positions that the survey came up with. But, among the major findings, according to the sources, are:

— A big part of the electorate/about 90 per cent does not trust any political party and would not be swayed by political, ideological or religious slogans;

— "Jordanian political parties continue to suffer under the stigma of disloyalty, dishonesty and bleak history," said one source. "This is evident in the finding of the study; very few respondents said they were inclined to join political parties or party-oriented political activities."

This opinion appeared to be augmented by the revelation from another source that only around 14,000 eligible voters — less than one per cent of the electorate — have registered as members in the 16 political parties which were granted legal recognition since September last year.

According to the source, less than seven per cent of eligible Jordanian voters have shown an interest in joining political parties in the long run. While some Jordanian analysts see this as "pathetic," European experts point out that the seven-per-cent figure is high when compared with some of the European countries.

They cite Germany as an example where 2.2 million — less than three per cent of the 80 million population — are registered members of political parties.

— Candidates who are "able to provide the best of social and economic services to constituents" stand the best chance of winning the next elections.

— "Those presenting themselves as lawmakers based on ideologies and platforms will draw very little votes when compared with candidates who are seen as capable of offering the best of public services," said one of the analysts privy to the findings of the poll. "The only exception perhaps would be a small number of constituencies in the Amman area," he added.

In essence, it means that "the Jordanian society remains very much along the patriarchal lines where patronage plays the main role."

— After services, the next areas of preferences for the voters are: Courage, piety, honesty and tribal and family affiliations, in that order.

"Coupled with the ability to secure services for the constituents, these represent an unbeatable combination of qualities as far as the electorate is concerned," said the analyst. "Such candidates could come from any shade of the political spectrum: Muslim fundamentalists, Communists, Baathists, socialists, leftists or traditionalists."

At the same time, the survey also found that candidates with pro-establishment tendencies will have a slight edge in the next elections unlike the 1989 polls, which were held seven months after the resignation of a government engulfed in controversies.

"Obviously many candidates took advantage of the discontent with the government to gain votes by adopting anti-establishment platforms during the last elections," said the analyst. "The survey strongly indicates that this may no longer be the case since there is an increasing recognition of the performance of the governments that took power since then."

— Every group, regardless of their ideologies and political leanings, have to come up with a concerted approach in choosing their candidates with the right qualities, rather than taking for granted that the candidates who won in November 1989 would be automatically reelected.

— Voter turnout in the next elections will be double that of the November 1989 polls, when slightly over 40 per cent of the eligible voters bothered to go to the voting booth.

Analysts saw this eventuality meaning a shift in the balance of power in favour of centrists and liberals in the 80-member Lower House, where the Muslim Brotherhood is the single largest bloc with 23 seats. At the same time, the Brotherhood or any other group, regardless of political platforms, could emerge as the strongest force if it could come up with candidates "with the unbeatable combination of qualities," said the analyst.

It is widely accepted that the Brotherhood, the best organised political grouping in the country, had mustered and secured the optimum number of votes it could have hoped for during the November 1989 elections and was successful in gaining 23 seats in the House since many non-Brotherhood voters did not bother to vote. Another element that helped the Brotherhood was the marked absence of any other organised political group and disarray among the leftists.

— Jordanian women are relatively apathetic to joining political parties and activities.

— A majority of the electorate thinks that the current Lower House has done well although less than 25 per cent are actually aware of the laws and measures adopted by the House since its election in November 1989.

The most understood and appreciated legislative issue among the target audience of the survey was the abolition of martial law, beginning early 1990, the poll found.

"In general, they are giving fair marks to the current House as well as the government," said the analyst. "They are saying 'both have done well, but need to do a lot more'."

Palestinians sceptical over U.S. pledge

(Continued from page 1)

its role in handling Resolution 799, then the Palestinians would come "under tremendous pressure" from both Israel and the U.S. to accept less than a complete withdrawal from all the territories the Jewish state occupied in 1967, including Arab East Jerusalem.

The Palestinian leadership is now seeking a clarification on the form and content of American participation, according to a senior PLO official.

"We requested from the U.S. a new letter of assurances that their participation will be based on the original letter of assurances and letter of invitation to the Madrid conference and to clarify their position on 242 and 338," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times.

The official added the U.S. informed the Palestinian that the American role would be discussed with Russia, a co-sponsor of the talks. The source added that the PLO was convinced this role would not be similar to that of the Camp David discussions where the U.S. actually sat on the negotiating table during the Israeli-Egyptian peace talks in the late 1970s.

Opponents of the peace talks, however, expect that a direct American role meant a Camp David-style approach where the U.S. would "dictate" how the talks between Israel and the Arabs should proceed.

"With the Americans sitting on the table, the U.S. would most

likely prepare a settlement, probably unsatisfactory to all parties in the talks, but will have to be signed by the participants who will claim they had come under pressure to sign," predicted Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst and strong opponent of the peace process.

But for the Palestinians involved in the process, an American clarification on their interpretation of 242 and 338 as well as a declaration that the U.S. regards the occupied territories as such and not as "disputed areas" would be sufficient to believe that the U.S. would be impartial in its role.

According to Palestinian delegates, one of the main obstacles resulting in the stalemate on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the negotiations was that Israel regards the West Bank and Gaza as "disputed areas," while the Palestinians insist on dealing with it as "occupied Palestinian territory (OPT)."

"If the Americans declare that this area is OPT and not disputed land, then resolutions 242 and 338 would automatically mean Palestinians would have full jurisdiction over the land," Mr. Arouri told the Jordan Times.

He added that such an American clarification — "in the form of an agreement signed by both the U.S. and Israel" — would give a "very positive push for the peace process."

"But if this did not happen," Mr. Arouri said, "then we would be better off without the American partnership."

Hamas 'surprised' at U.S. decision

(Continued from page 1)

that contacts had taken place between American diplomats and "some people associated with Hamas." But he denied the existence of a political dialogue between them.

The State Department spokesman said U.S. embassies, particularly the mission in Amman, maintained a variety of contacts with people to discuss the development of political Islam and Islamic currents in the Islamic World.

"We don't have a political dialogue with Hamas, and given the current situation, we have instructed our embassies not to continue those contacts," Mr. Boucher told reporters Tuesday.

In addition to meeting the American diplomat, Hamas representatives also launched contacts with the Amman-based ambassadors of Britain, Germany, and Italy.

According to Hamas officials, discussions during these meetings focused on Hamas' political views, its opposition to peace negotiations with Israel, and the Palestinian demand for the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of the Palestinians expelled in December.

"We were told by Eric (Gaudiosi) that Israel might be returning a small number of Palestinians expelled since 1967, and that it would make some improvements in human rights conditions in the occupied territories," Mr. Nazal said. He also said that the American diplomat informed the Hamas delegation that the U.S. was trying to achieve the return of the latest group of expellees, who are stranded in South Lebanon between Israeli and Lebanese army

lines.

The American-Hamas contacts were a source of concern for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), particularly that Washington has repeatedly refused PLO request for a resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue suspended in 1990.

Despite its publicly stated moderate views and close involvement in the Mideast peace process through Palestinian negotiators from the Israeli-occupied territories, the mainstream PLO has not succeeded in convincing the U.S. of reopening the dialogue.

The meetings between Hamas and American diplomats were viewed with suspicion by the PLO, which described the contacts as an infringement on the organisation's legitimacy as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, something that Hamas itself does not acknowledge.

Hamas did consider its meetings with American and other Western diplomats as "an indirect international recognition of its strength and political weight in the Palestinian political arena," according to Mr. Nazal.

He emphasised that Hamas would continue to prove its strength as "an influential Palestinian force with significant political weight."

Meanwhile, a formal statement issued by Hamas described American officials' suggestions that the group was a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing.

The statement called on Washington to withdraw such "provocative statement and to apologise to our people."

It also urged the U.S. to be "accurate and objective before making such irresponsible statements."

According to Hamas spokesman in Jordan Ibrahim Ghoshe, the comments in reference came from James Fox, head of the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

"We reject the baseless accusation, which aims at hurting our people and movement and undermining our image," Mr. Ghoshe said.

Mr. Nazal said of the reported American comments: "We have not threatened American interests anywhere in the world. Our policy is well known to the U.S.: It is a legitimate struggle against the Zionist enemy."

In Tunis, PLO official expressed satisfaction over the U.S. decision to end contacts with Hamas.

Through the contacts with Hamas, the United States was aiming at dividing the Palestinian ranks and putting pressure on the PLO to obtain more concessions," said Abdullah Hourani, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee.

Now that the United States has ended these contacts, "it is clear that Hamas should not have been mistaken that the U.S. was going to recognise it and consider it as an alternative (to the PLO)," he said.

The head of the PLO's Information Department, Yasser Abed Rabbo, said it would have no comment on the U.S. decision.

Israel welcomed the U.S. move.

"We appreciate the American wisdom, or the administration's wisdom in cutting contacts with those who are trying to kill the peace in order to enable this process to go on," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben Ami told Reuters.

Asked if Israel had urged Washington to cut contacts with Hamas, Ben Ami said: "We are not discussing our diplomatic contacts."

Somalis declare weaponry, manpower

(Continued from page 1)

sites have been identified the men and (light) weapons will then be placed in these transitional sites."

The ceasefire and disarmament committee broke up after a day's meeting Tuesday but agreed to meet again on March 30 when it will evaluate more information from the factions about the weapons.

Turkey said Wednesday the time was not ripe for the U.S.-led force in Somalia to hand over to U.N. peacekeepers commanded by a Turkish general.

"It seems it is too early to begin a U.N. (peacekeeping) operation in Somalia. Turkey has relayed this impression to the United Nations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said in Ankara.

An American soldier was killed Wednesday by a land mine and another U.S. soldier died when his truck crashed, a military spokesman said.

That brought to six the number of Americans killed in Operation

Restore Hope, two of them in traffic accidents.

The spokesman also announced that two marines faced hearings over whether they used excessive force in shootings that killed one young Somali and wounded another.

The hearings, the first since the U.S. led military coalition arrived in December, could lead to court-martials and possible prison sentences.

Marine Colonel Fred Peck said at least two other shootings were being investigated for excessive force.

The latest American killed was a member of the U.S. Army's Special Forces, who died Wednesday after the humvee he was riding in struck a land mine while going to a meeting of Somali elders in a town 150 kilometres northeast of Delet Huen, Col. Peck said.

The soldier was taken to a Canadian field hospital at Delet Huen, 330 kilometres north of Mogadishu, where he died, Col. Peck said. The soldier's name was being withheld until his family could be notified.

U.N. team

(Continued from page 1)

with all regulations that it should comply on the nuclear factor."

Mr. Perrieros said Iraq's reluctance to reveal names of its supply network was a major obstacle to full compliance. "If you are going to get some (names) that would be a good faith. If you do not get anything, then all the words will remain words."

Iraq says naming individuals would make them targets for Israeli assassination or persecution in their own countries.

Mr. Perrieros said the U.N. had never asked for names of Iraqi scientists. "We know enough names of Iraqi scientists to ask them for interviews if we wanted."

Mr. Perrieros said Iraq was under obligation not only to honor its Security Council Resolution 687 but also subsequent resolutions enshrining the mechanism for its current and future compliance.

"Basically we have not seen everything and this is the part of the problem we are having."

Israeli guard stabbed in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rabin has informed the cabinet that a discussion of the future of Gaza would take place "very soon."

Health Minister Haim Ramon renewed the idea of unilateral withdrawal, raised after past stabbing attacks by Gazans in Israel. He suggested Israel should announce it would pull out within two years.

"There is nothing there for us... if we don't decide to get out of Gaza and if no settlement is reached, we are allowing the Palestinians to force us to stay there," Mr. Ramon said.

But others said cutting off Gaza, whose devastated economy cannot support its population, would only increase violence aimed at Israel.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said it would be easier for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank where Palestinian residents could cross into Jordan for work.

In Gaza "where is their outlet?" the sea?" Mr. Ben Eliezer asked. "They will jump the fences and kill just to steal food."

However, Mr. Ben Eliezer added: "I wish we could get up and leave tomorrow."

Former Foreign Minister David Levy of the opposition Likud Party asserted that pulling out of Gaza would turn the area into a "terrorist bed," launching attacks on Israel.

Mr. Rabin, while not addressing calls for withdrawal, has said he does not support a blanket, indefinite closure of Gaza.

After the Tel Aviv murders, Mr. Rabin also resisted public calls for Israel to drop out of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Arich Manor, cabinet secretary in the right-wing government of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, backed Mr. Rabin's stand in a newspaper column, saying Israel had tried everything but peace to stop Palestinian attacks on its citizens.

"We have not tried to see how the Palestinians would act under peace conditions when they will have something to lose if they violate it," Mr. Manor wrote in Yedioth Ahronoth.

Army radio quoted Yasser Abed Rabbo, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunisia, as saying the Gaza closure was another obstacle to the resumption of the U.S.-sponsored peace talks.



أكاديمية عمان
AMMAN ACADEMY
KHALDA-AMMAN

AT THE REQUEST OF PARENTS,
WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
BOYS SCHOOL

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1993/94 IN GRADES 7 - 8 - 9
WE ALSO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR
KINDERGARTEN, BOYS AND GIRLS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 1-6), BOYS AND GIRLS
GIRLS SCHOOL (GRADES 7-9)

WELL BALANCED QUALITY EDUCATION AND COMPREHENSIVE
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
WE PREPARE OUR STUDENTS FOR THE JORDANIAN TAWJIIH
AND GCE EXAMS

HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED TEACHING STAFF
REASONABLE FEES

TRANSPORT IS PROVIDED AT COST ON OUR PRIVATE BUSES
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR SIBLINGS AND EXCELLENCE RANGING FROM
10 TO 50 PER CENT OF PRESCRIBED FEES

FOR APPLICATIONS AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL ON US AT OUR
LIAISON OFFICE AT ABU-ZEID CENTER, UM UTHAINA, 1ST FLOOR
OFFICE NO. 12. OR CALL TELEPHONE NO. 688335 OR WRITE TO
P.O. BOX 830476, POSTAL CODE 11183, AMMAN JORDAN. FAX 688335

DAILY FROM 9 AM TO 3 PM DURING RAMADAN, 7 DAYS A WEEK
DON'T FORGET TO ASK FOR A COPY OF OUR BROCHURE

SECOND TO NONE

EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY BODIES

PRESIDENT MUNZER FAHOUM
PRINCIPAL NAWAL HASHISHO KAMAL
HEADS OF SCHOOLS DIANA AFRANJ
ALIA SNOBAR
CHAIRMAN, ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PROFESSOR OMAR AL-SHAIKH
FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

RESIDENT ADVISOR DR. AUDEH AL-HALTHEH
MANAGER FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION YOUSEF NAHHAS

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS
ALWAYS CHOOSE
THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT
FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR
SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS
CLEARANCE, TICKETS
AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604696
P.O. BOX 7806
AMMAN

CROWN INTL. EST.

Packing, shipping
Forwarding, storage
worldwide Removals
Air, Sea and Land

TEL: 66 40 90
FAX: 69 08 52
POST: 92 64 67
Amman-Jordan

KAIS CENTER FOR HOME SERVICES
YOUR BEST CHOICE
IN JORDAN...

★ Kails Dryclean, 1 Hr. Service
★ Shoes repair ★ Engraving
★ Keys Service
★ Upholstry, curtains & carpets
cleaning
6 Branches of YOUR Service
Mecca Street, behind Plaza
Hut, phone 821656, Fax
828163

STUDIO HALL

For further details,
please call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605/810609
Fax: 810520

4 RENT & SALE

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale, furnished or unfurnished.

Also many plots of land are available for sale.

For further details,
please call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605/810609
Fax: 810520

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 12:30-3:30 & 6:00-11:30 daily
Tables always available
Wadi Saqra Road
near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel. 691822, Amman

Guest Tested
Always Loved

红房子餐厅

CHINA
House Restaurant

★ Taste and enjoy our special
dinner in Ramadan.
★ Special Chinese dishes & best
sea food.
★ Excellent IFTAR dinner daily
with special price.
Open daily 5:00-midnight
Jabal Al Hussein, Ministry
of Trade & Industry Road.
Tel. 667755

We are open
during Ramadan.

Valentino

RESTAURANT
JABAL AMMAN FIRST FLOOR
OPPOSITE THE IRACI EMBASSY TEL. 554265

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC
CHINESE
CUISINE

elegant
colorful atmosphere
moderate prices
Shenwan, Tel. 660250
now open daily 1

CHEN'S
CHINESE
RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing
Estate, near Kilo
Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for
Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our
specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30
p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best
Chinese Restaurant
in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
Anhiyyah Girls School
Tables always available
Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
7:00 — Midnight
Tel. 638668

For the best
for your
MONEY...
ADVERTISE
in the

AVIS

We try harder.

699-420

The First Class Hotel in
Amman that has a
Kitchenette in every room...
"Satellite T.V. Reception"

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 238888 DAROTEL JO
Ideal Residence For
Expatriates and
Businessmen

China
Town
Restaurant

Every great city in the world has its China
Town and Amman now has its own.

Where you can enjoy the most exquisite
Chinese dishes for lunch and dinner.
Banquet Hall & Party Service
All chefs from Peking, China
at the Yarmouk Hotel
Tel. 674295 or 674111 - ext. 6338

Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

كنا عنة لماركيت

Courier defeats Wheaton; Edberg eliminated

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Top seeded Jim Courier defeated David Wheaton in straight sets Tuesday, but No. 3 Stefan Edberg of Sweden was upset by Richey Reneberg in second round action of the \$1.7 million Champions Cup.

Courier, the No. 1 player in the world, struggled a bit in beating Wheaton 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), needing nearly two hours to advance to the third round, where he'll meet Todd Martin.

Reneberg ranked 60th in the world, outlasted Edberg 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 by winning the final four games of the match.

In other second-round action, fourth seeded Michael Chang eliminated Jonathan Stark 6-4, 6-4; Martin upset 16th seeded Arnaud Boetsch of France 6-4, 5-7, 7-6; and 13th seeded Malivai Washington topped Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 6-2, 6-2.

Marc Rosset of Switzerland was scheduled to face Mark Woodforde of Australia, but Woodforde withdrew because of a strained left hamstring. Diego Perez was a last minute replacement.

Courier said he never got into a solid rhythm against Wheaton. "I was just hanging in there, trying to hold serve," Courier said. "He's very dangerous. When he plays me, he tries to dictate everything. He takes chances and takes big risks."

Wheaton said he thought both he and Courier played well.

"It didn't feel like a second round match," Wheaton said. "It was more like a semifinal or a final because of the intensity. I felt like I did what I needed to do."

Reneberg beat Edberg for the first time after losing five matches to the world's third ranked player. In the eighth game of the third set, with Edberg ahead a service break, Reneberg took a 40-level lead before Edberg won two points. However, Reneberg hit a forehand winner to even the set. Reneberg then held service and



Jim Courier following through on his serve

broke Edberg again to end the 2-hour, 4-minute match.

"There's no question I played about as well as I could, and he didn't play his best," Reneberg said. "I'm very happy that for the first time, I've beaten a guy in the top five."

Edberg said he blew the chances he had to finish off Reneberg.

Ben Johnson tests positive again for drugs — newspaper

TORONTO (R) — Canadian Ben Johnson, who served a two-year suspension after failing a drugs test at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, has tested positive again, the Toronto Star newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Star said Johnson's positive test had been confirmed by three independent sources, all of whom spoke to the paper on condition that they would not be identified.

Asked whether the Star could report that Johnson had tested positive, one highly-placed source replied: "You would be accurate," the newspaper reported.

In London, International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) spokeswoman Jayne Pearce said the federation had no confirmation of a positive test.

"We have no confirmation of a case involving Ben Johnson," Pearce said. "We will be in a position to comment after the doping commission meets."

The Star said when Johnson was contacted at home and asked about the report he replied "no comment" and when pressed used a profanity in ordering a reporter from his property.

"A source said the five-member IAAF doping commission is trying to co-ordinate everyone's schedule for a meeting to review Johnson's case in London, England. Four or five possible dates have been given to each member," the Star said.

IAAF sources said the doping commission was scheduled to meet soon but not necessarily in London.

They said commission chairman, Sweden's Arne Ljungqvist was due to return home Wednesday after an overseas trip.

The Star said Johnson, 31, had been tested three times over six days in mid-January before leaving for indoor races in Europe. He was tested at the Hamilton Spectator Indoor Games January



Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson at a press conference at the Seoul Olympics, where he was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal. Johnson has now allegedly failed another test and might face lifetime ban (AP photo)

15, at a Grand Prix event in Montreal January 17 and in a random test two days later in Toronto.

The paper said a source told it the IAAF doping commission would be examining testosterone levels in Johnson's urine sample.

High testosterone levels, which can result from performance-enhancing drugs such as anabolic steroids, enable athletes to train harder and recover quicker from training sessions.

If Johnson is guilty of using drugs he will be automatically banned for life.

"Speculation about Johnson began to surface when he made a hasty exit from the Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships in Winnipeg February 19," the Star said.

Johnson appeared at the championships, the qualifying event for the World Indoors, but advisers told him not to race because of a week-old hamstring injury.

"There has been some speculation in Canadian track circles that the IAAF might try to keep a lid on the Johnson case until after

the World Indoor Championships in order to save both themselves and the organisers any possible embarrassment," the Star said.

The championship start in Toronto March 12, without Johnson.

The Canadian, who won the 1987 world title in Rome in world record time, was stripped of his 1988 Olympic 100 metres gold medal and suspended from competition for two years after a banned anabolic steroid was found in his urine at the Seoul Games.

In 1989 he was stripped of all his world outdoor and indoor records as well as the world title.

After serving his suspension he returned to athletics and competed at last year's Barcelona Olympics but finished last in his 100 metres semifinal.

In January and February this year, Johnson posted impressive times at indoor meetings. In February he won a 50 metres event in France in 5.65 seconds, just 0.04 of a second outside the world record.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 4, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Show that you want to get along well with others and think along spiritual lines as you enjoy the Moon trine your planet of good fortune, Jupiter and later in the day Mercury and Pigeon....

allis not well at home but soon afterwards you find you have many ideas on how to improve conditions, none of them very good.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) This is your morning to refrain from acknowledging messages and from communications while later you are apt to act too hastily from some pressure.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well whatever ideas of a financial nature you have in the morning as they are not likely to work and a temptation to act too hastily with assets is inadvisable later.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 21 to December 21) You are depressed and laharic in the morning but too suddenly you feel a spurt of energy that can make you act with too much haste and adversity.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 20) Your personal goals seem far away but forcing issues to gain them now would be a mistake and require careful planning to effectuate your desires.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You feel you are too alone and want more company but it is not the day to seek those who do not come to you naturally, of their own volition.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You get a poor start on your outside duties today but then there seems to be a chance to do more than you had thought possible but results would be unsatisfactory.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't seek any favours from those in power or authority in the morning after which you have sudden communications from a distance requiring a change of plans.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do your tasks quietly in the morning and you save considerable time and expense while later you find it necessary to tow the line in any public activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Avoid a conflict between your boss and an associate while later it is essential that you sidestep a confrontation from a self righteous individual.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Work will seem to be a real drag and outside interests attract but later you find you get inspiration requiring study before putting in motion.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can't seem to get your talents in operation as you wish in the morning but shortly after you have a wrong hunch on how best to project them so be cautious.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You awaken with a feeling that

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"Stanley, has anyone told you that your cologne smells a lot like catnip?"

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 5, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A beautiful evening for expressing your own conventional attitudes that have served you so well in the past. An upside benefit comes to you in surprise package that you don't expect.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't get involved in a new scheme in the morning while later you find that you are able to find the right way to increase your vocational know how.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can be mistaken in a business matter early in the day so double check data while later you can make strides in some new directions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't let a partner change arrangements you have jointly made in the morning while tonight you can carry through with your own part of any, all deals.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A slow start on your job can be anticipated so do not get discouraged while later conditions come to light to aid your future progress.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider well what you and your mate have to say in one another in the morning but tonight you can get into activities facing you and organize them very well.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Trouble at home early can be

avoided by absencing yourself but tonight you find ways to have a wonderful time at some new interesting pleasure.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Refrain from uttering that snide comment in the morning to an ally but tonight you can have a very good time with your family at home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have the tendency to do something of an adverse practical nature after breakfast but tonight getting some desired data puts you on the right path.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You see things all wrong so don't commit yourself in the morning even though your judgement about money and your property is OK.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't worry so much in the morning over a condition that you can do nothing about but tonight you see what to do to better advance your own interests.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take it easy in the morning and go after only impersonal aims that motivate you while later you can get a better idea on how to gain cherished desires.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your worldly standing can be under fire in the morning so be like Caesar's wife, above reproach, but tonight you make big headway towards a worthwhile ambition.

"At 4-3, I was serving quite well, and he returned well, and he changed everything," Edberg said. "I lost my timing a little bit."

Graf scores easy win

It was easy for Steffi Graf but a struggle for Arantxa Sanchez Vicario as the top seeds won their opening matches Tuesday in the \$375,000 Virginia Slims of Florida tennis tournament.

One of a trio of three-time winners of the tournament in its nine years, Graf rolled past Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-2, 6-1.

Spain's Sanchez Vicario, the second seeded player here, was pushed almost to the limit before outlasting Canadian Helen Klesi, 7-6, (7-3) and 7-5.

Blasting away with a serve that sometimes reached 100 mph (160 kph), Graf won 23 of 25 points on her first serve. She swept through eight straight games in one stretch and broke Basuki's service five times in the match that lasted just 47 minutes.

"I played some solid tennis after we got going," Graf said. "We were both a little tentative at the start, getting used to the wind and the court surface."

This is the first time the tournament has been played at the new Delray Beach Tennis Centre.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan leads Bulls to sixth-straight victory

RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Michael Jordan led his way to a game-high 24 points to lead the Chicago Bulls to their sixth-straight victory, an 87-80 win over the New Jersey Nets in the National Basketball Association. B.J. Armstrong added 19 points for the Bulls, who beat the Nets for the ninth straight time. The game was delayed for 22 minutes late in the fourth quarter after New Jersey's Chris Morris splintered a backboard. In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 18 of his 30 points in the first quarter to spur the New York Knicks to a 107-98 victory over the Atlanta Hawks. The Hawks lost their third in a row despite a game-high 42 points from Dominique Wilkins, who sank 20 of 22 free throws. Atlanta has lost six of its last eight games. In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 25 points and pulled down 16 rebounds to lead the Orlando Magic to a 108-89 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. In Indianapolis, Detlef Schrempf scored 26 points and Reggie Miller added 20 as the Indiana Pacers cruised to their third-straight victory, a 109-95 triumph over the slumping San Antonio Spurs.

Sheffield United beat Tottenham 6-0

LONDON (AP) — Struggling Sheffield United boosted its chances of avoiding relegation by hammering eight place Tottenham 6-0 in the English Premier League soccer action. Another relegation threatened team, Middlesbrough, gained a 1-0 victory at seventh-place Ipswich. The results mean Sheffield United climbed three places above Nottingham Forest, Everton and Crystal Palace to 17th place in the 22-team standings. Middlesbrough climbed one place to 19th. The Premier League game between last place Oldham and Liverpool was postponed because the Boundary Park field was frozen.

Maradona considers playing in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — Argentine soccer megastar Diego Maradona may soon play for a Turkish team, press reports said Tuesday. Here for a friendly between his Spanish club FC Sevilla and Galatasaray Istanbul, Maradona told reporters that he might join the Turkish club if he fails to get what he wants from his present club after his contract runs out at the end of this season. Turkish agency Anatolia quoted Maradona as complaining to reporters that obscure players were fouling him to make the headlines.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TASHIR HENCH
© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WHY GUESS?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 5 4
♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ A 4 2
♣ 8 3

WEST
♠ J
♥ 7 5
♦ 8 7 5 3
♣ A 10 9 8 5 4

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 8 7 2
♥ 9 8
♦ Q 10 9
♣ Q 2

SOUTH
♠ K 6 3
♥ A J 10 4
♦ K J 6
♣ K J 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
2 Pass 3 NT Pass
4 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠. When this hand was played in a recent team match, declarer tried to guess the location of a few key cards. Unfortunately, it was not South's lucky day, and the contract was defeated. It could have been made without resorting to a single guess. North's two diamonds was a transfer to hearts. As a result, a contract of four hearts was reached in quick time. Declarer won the opening spade lead in dummy, drew trumps and

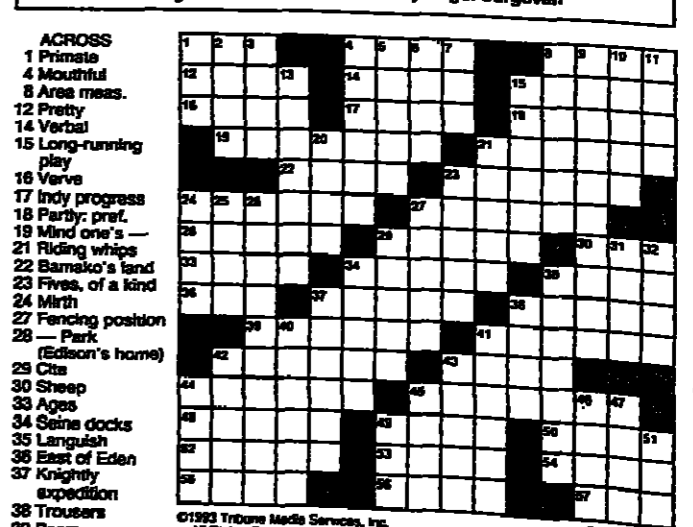
took the king of spades, planning to concede the third round in the hope that West would have to win. When West showed out, South tried a different tack. The king and ace of diamonds were cashed, followed by a third diamond in an attempt to endplay West should that defender hold the queen.

East scored the lady, cashed a spade trick and exited with a low club. Naturally, declarer chose to go in with the king, and the defenders collected two club tricks for a one-trick set. Verily, it was a day to try men's souls.

It ought not to have been. Declarer came within a step of guaranteeing the contract no matter how the cards were divided. South should have followed through by surrendering the spade anyway! When East wins, best defense is to shift to a diamond. Declarer follows low from hand and wins in dummy, then leads a club and plays any honor from hand.

Suppose declarer inserts the king and loses to the ace. A diamond return from West is into declarer's major tenace and a club sets up South's jack for a diamond discard from the table. Either way, declarer loses only three tricks.

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan



© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



44. Plymouth mess. 47. One's org. 48. Consolidated. 49. One's org. 50. Hero. 51. Consume.

Miyazawa rules out tax cut

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has rejected growing opposition calls that Japan should stimulate its sagging economy with lower income taxes. "We must consider whether such income tax cuts would be effective and how to finance them," Mr. Miyazawa told the upper house of parliament. "I believe tax credits would cause problems. I cannot immediately agree to such opposition demands." With Japan facing one of the most stubborn downturns in decades, opposition parties have urged the government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to revise the draft budget for 1992/93 to include income and other tax breaks totalling 4.26 trillion yen (\$36.7 billion).

S. Korean president orders sweeping measures to deregulate economy

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — New President Kim Young Sam Wednesday told his cabinet to come up with sweeping measures to ease tight controls on the nation's slumping economy. Mr. Kim also moved loyalists into 50 key posts, including floor leader in parliament, to help push through planned reforms aimed at rooting out bureaucracy, corruption and the legacy of past authoritarian governments. Mr. Kim's instruction followed up his election campaign pledge to revitalize the economy by phasing out government controls, which many believe are a drag on growth. The president, however, has not provided a detailed blueprint of his policies. "To build a new economy, we must boldly abolish government

regulations and controls that are no longer appropriate to the present time," the president told his first cabinet meeting for economic affairs. Mr. Kim ordered government agencies involved to come up with deregulation plans by March 20 and begin revising rules and regulations immediately thereafter. During the meeting, Deputy

Prime Minister Lee Kyung Shik, who also serves as economic planning minister, promised to ease the tight controls on the financial sector, where the United States and other trading partners say foreign firms suffer from excessive restrictions. Under existing controls, senior government officials appoint most bank executives and the government gets most bank in-

terest rates. Korea's economy is the world's 10th largest. Mr. Kim also was reported planning sweeping changes this weekend that would affect nearly all vice ministers, heads of government-invested organizations, provincial governors, mayors and envoys in key overseas posts.

Former Soviet republics establish gas, oil council

MOSCOW (AP) — Leaders of 12 former Soviet republics Tuesday formed an inter-governmental council to coordinate efforts to stabilize and develop their oil and gas sectors, news agencies reported. The decision to form the council came during a two-day conference on energy cooperation between Commonwealth members held in the Siberian city of Surgut in Tyumen, Interfax and ITAR-TASS reported. The council, which was joined by all the former Soviet republics except Latvia, Estonia and Turkmenistan, will coordinate actions between members in scientific, technical, investment and other areas, the agencies said. A joint communiqué adopted in Surgut said the council would also help members to establish joint enterprises and develop

direct trade and economic ties between members, Interfax reported. All European and Asian countries are eligible to join the council, which would be based in Tyumen, Russia's main oil-producing region. Also at the conference, Russia agreed to continue supplying oil to Armenia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan in exchange for equipment and materials to prop up its ailing energy industry, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Georgy Khizha told Interfax. Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Shafaransk warned Monday that Russia would stop exporting gas and oil to the former Soviet republics unless they provide financial support to the ailing industry. Mr. Khizha said no prices had been set yet concerning the bi-

lateral agreements with Russia. He attended the talks in place of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was ill. The agreements will set the stage for similar deals between Russia and other former Soviet republics, Mr. Khizha said. Georgia agreed at the conference to supply pipes and engines to Russia in exchange for receiving shares of Russian oil and gas enterprises, Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Tengiz Segua said. Mr. Khizha also said Russia would not suspend gas supplies to Ukraine unless prime ministers of both countries fail to agree on price issues when they meet in Moscow later this week, Interfax said. Russia is "demanding that Ukraine pay a higher price for gas."

Arab Monetary Fund suspends Iraq, Sudan and Somalia

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) plagued by non-payment of arrears by hard-up members, has suspended three defaulting states — Iraq, Sudan and Somalia. Financial sources in Abu Dhabi, where the AMF, the Arab World's main financial institution is based, said Wednesday the three were notified of the suspension on Feb. 21. The decision was taken after they failed to meet a deadline for repaying some of their accumulated debts of some \$775 million to the 21-nation fund, the sources said. "Iraq said its money was frozen, there was no country called Somalia, and Sudan was economically unable to pay," said a member of the AMF board of governors who declined to be identified. The AMF said in its 1991 report, the latest available, that arrears that year rose to about \$590 million accounting for more than 40 per cent of lendable resources. The sources said the board of governors decided last March to give the three countries and Mauritania six months to find a way to repay. When that period ended, only Mauritania was able to pay with a loan obtained from the AMF.

Iraq owed some \$235 million in principal and interest, Sudan some \$230 million and Somalia \$110 million, they added. AMF officials declined to comment. The AMF said in December it had granted Mauritania a \$14 million loan to help finance its 1993 economic reform programme. It said the loan was agreed by the AMF, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The AMF was set up in 1976 to support economic development. Early last year it said the default by the three countries was blocking plans to expand lending activity. The AMF grants automatic loans to developing Arab states which do not have arrears with the fund to help finance balance of payments deficits and boost economic reform. It extended loans to member states worth \$783.2 million by the end of 1992. One source said the suspension meant the three countries were no longer eligible for AMF loans and technical assistance but could still apply for credits from AMF affiliates such as the Arab Trade Finance Programme.

Spanish premier offers plan to stimulate economy

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez offered a multi-billion dollar package of emergency measures Tuesday to increase public works projects and stimulate private investment to stem Spain's 20 per cent unemployment rate.

British Aerospace reports record loss for 1992

LONDON (R) — British Aerospace PLC has reported a record 1992 pre-tax loss of £1.2 billion (\$1.75 billion) after a £1 billion (\$1.46 billion) write off for the restructuring of its civil aircraft business. The deficit was one of the highest British corporate losses on record, following a near £1 billion loss for Ford of Britain in 1991. "1992 was the most testing year in the company's history," Chairman John Cahill said. "Our automotive, construction and property companies were all exposed to very harsh economic conditions. However, the defence company continued to perform robustly. Although a recovery in demand would be helpful, we are not counting on it. Volume or price can only be of marginal assistance to the group in the short term. Only cost-reduction programmes will have a real impact," Mr. Cahill added.

FOR RENT
Furnished villa with modern and new furniture.
Location: Shmeisani - Abdul Jalil Street.
Call tel. 691463

SEEKING JOB
• Excellent English writing skills • Knowledge of fax, telex and typing • Male • Foreigner • Wide-ranging work experience • Valid Jordanian driving licence.
If interested, please call 659473 bet: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. today

FOR RENT
Newly furnished apartment in Dahlat Al Hussein - Rabia. 2 bedrooms, sitting, dining room, salon, 2 bathrooms, central heating.
For information, please call 684896. After 18:00 - 823003

FOR SALE
1. A traditional residence located in Fourth Circle area, one block from the Prime Ministry, on almost 1,900 sq.m. surrounded by trees. Price JD 425,000.
2. Deluxe villa in Abdoun, 4 bedrooms, 3 salons etc... Price JD 325,000.
For more details, please call 662386 from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. or fax any time

To members of,
Jordanian Scandinavian Friendship Association
Members of JSFA are kindly reminded to do their best to attend the annual general meeting which will be held on Saturday March 6th, 1993, at 20:00 hrs, at the Royal Automobile Club.
Your support by attending will be greatly appreciated.
The Board Of Directors

DAILY PIZZA
Ramadan Offers
Buy One Large Pizza
And Get Another Small Size Of The Same Type
FREE
Panywhere In Amman
Home Delivery Service
FREE
DAILY PIZZA... The Taste Is Unique
Gardens St. Kuds Comm. Center - Yubal Circle Tel. 685652
7th Circle - Next to Royal Automobile Club Tel. 817824

Slovenia to buy oil from Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Slovenia will buy 500,000 tonnes of crude oil from Iran under a deal signed Wednesday, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported. It said the agreement, signed by Slovene Foreign Minister Ljudevit Peterle before he ended a three-day visit to Tehran, also covered joint ventures for building oil tankers and power plant equipment and Iranian lead exports to Slovenia. IRNA said Mr. Peterle asked to buy 500,000 tonnes of oil per year, equivalent to about 10,000 barrels a day, when he met Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh Tuesday. The agreement envisaged the transfer of aluminium industry technology to Iran and the opening of Slovenia's embassy in Tehran by June, IRNA said. It quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying Iran wanted to use Slovenia's expertise in dam construction, telecommunications and other industries.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Furnished 3-bedroom apartment with 2 bathrooms, located at Jubaiheh.
If interested, please contact 844990

CONCORD Tel.: 677420
Kevin Costner
and Whitney Houston
BODYGUARD
Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:15, 10:30 p.m.
Free Car Parking

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
ANOTHER 48 HRS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
RETURN TO OZ

PLAZA Tel.: 699238
LADIES
(AL - SITTAT)
Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil & Hisham's
AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155
New World Order
Plays continue daily at 9:00 p.m.
except Saturdays and Sundays
Happy Feast

TODAY AT

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
ANOTHER 48 HRS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
RETURN TO OZ

Nabil & Hisham's
AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155
New World Order
Plays continue daily at 9:00 p.m.
except Saturdays and Sundays
Happy Feast

TODAY AT

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
ANOTHER 48 HRS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
RETURN TO OZ

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
	Date: 3/3/93	Date: 3/3/93
Sterling Pound	1.4490	1.4540
Deutsche Mark	1.6390	1.6385
Swiss Franc	1.5225	1.5205
French Franc	5.5605	5.5513 **
Japanese Yen	117.59	116.75
European Currency Unit	1.1845	1.1872 **

USD Per JGD
--- European Opening at 8:00 A.M. GMT

Forex Interest Rates Date: 3/3/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.18	3.25	3.43
Sterling Pound	6.00	5.88	5.69	5.50
Deutsche Mark	8.37	8.00	7.56	7.00
Swiss Franc	5.37	5.25	4.93	4.62
French Franc	11.43	11.43	10.43	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.37	3.26	3.12	3.12
European Currency Unit	9.50	9.25	8.93	8.43

Interbank bid rates for minimum exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 3/3/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	330.15	6.35	Silver	3.59	.080

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 3/3/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0011	1.0061
Deutsche Mark	0.4207	0.4228
Swiss Franc	0.4536	0.4559
French Franc	0.1239	0.1245
Japanese Yen	0.5910	0.5940
Dutch Guilder	0.3740	0.3759
Swedish Krona	0.0896	0.0900
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.02041	0.02051

Other Currencies Date: 3/3/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7960	1.8170
Lebanese Lira	0.03837	0.040647
Saudi Riyal	0.1850	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2220	2.2450
Qatari Riyal	0.1665	0.1678
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1865	0.1878
Greek Drachma	0.3103	0.3153
Cypriot Pound	1.3915	1.4096

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	1/3/1993 Close	2/3/1993 Close
All-Share	189.82	189.30
Banking Sector	132.23	132.39
Insurance Sector	210.67	211.25
Industry Sector	269.78	269.71
Services Sector	248.07	248.09

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2458/63	Canadian dollar	1.6355/65
U.S. dollar	1.8388/96	Dutch guilders	1.5130/40
U.S. dollar	33.68/72	Swiss francs	5.5475/5525
U.S. dollar	5.5475/5525	Belgian francs	1562/1567
U.S. dollar	116.60/65	French francs	7.6555/6655
U.S. dollar	7.6555/6655	Italian lire	6.9600/9700
U.S. dollar	6.9600/9700	Japanese yen	6.2750/2850
U.S. dollar	6.2750/2850	Norwegian crowns	\$1.4560/70
U.S. dollar	\$1.4560/70	Swedish crowns	\$329.30/329.70
U.S. dollar	\$329.30/329.70	Danish crowns	

TODAY AT

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
ANOTHER 48 HRS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
RETURN TO OZ

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
ANOTHER 48 HRS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
RETURN TO OZ

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Tel.: 675571
For Technical Reasons
The Shows of the play:
TA'A WAQAIMEH (PANDEMONIUM)
will stop till further notice

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
ANOTHER 48 HRS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
RETURN TO OZ

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144
ANOTHER 48 HRS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
RETURN TO OZ

U.N. seeks entry to wounded in eastern Bosnia enclave

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations sought passage for a fleet of trucks waiting to enter eastern Bosnia and evacuate sick and wounded civilians trapped by fighting in the Muslim enclave of Cerska.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said up to 20,000 people were believed to be fleeing the area, where it said Serbs were moving freely and looting homes. The radio report could not be independently confirmed.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the 11 trucks, driven by Swedish firemen trained in first aid, were standing by on the Serbian side of the border with Bosnia.

They left Belgrade at dawn after Bosnian authorities told the UNHCR that up to 1,500 sick and wounded Muslims had fled from a Serb advance on Cerska to the nearby Muslim-held settlement of Konjic Polje and required urgent evacuation.

Bosnian Serb leaders have refused to allow the trucks into the area, the target Monday of the first U.S. aid airdrops to trapped Muslims in eastern Bosnia, unless Muslim forces surrender, according to the UNHCR.

U.N. sources said aid officials would meet Serb army chief General Ratko Mladic Wednesday to try to break the deadlock.

"We sent the convoy (to the border) because we felt we had to get as close as possible and as soon as possible to the people in need pending negotiations on obtaining passage," UNHCR spokesman Manuel Almeida said in Zagreb.

Cerska has been cut off under Serb siege virtually since war between Bosnia's Serbs, Muslims and ethnic Croats erupted last April.

Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic said Muslim soldiers were "fighting desperately" to keep routes open for fleeing civilians and were slowing their withdrawal from the area.

It was impossible to establish whether Cerska had fallen. The Bosnian Serb army refused all comment. It has previously dismissed figures of up to 200,000 trapped Muslims in eastern Bosnia as grossly exaggerated.

"The army headquarters is not going to comment on what is happening in Cerska or any other area during the U.S. humanitarian aid airdrops," a senior Bosnian Serb officer told Reuters by telephone from army headquarters at Lukavica.

Four U.S. C-130 cargo planes dropped 20 tonnes of rations and medical supplies over Konjic late Tuesday in a third straight night sortie from the Rhein-Main Airbase in Germany.

U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said the airdrops might now be halted at least for the time being.

He said the airdrops were "a symbolic effort to try and use leverage to get the ground flow of humanitarian aid going and in that it was a success."

The UNHCR said it had received unconfirmed reports from radio hams that Serb artillery had opened fire on Konjic and nearby Muslim-held Srebrenica after the airdrop.

There were no reliable reports

of any of the latest aid being found.

Bosnian Serbs have bitterly criticised the U.S. operation, arguing that it will encourage Muslims to prolong the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic and eventually lead to American military intervention, a scenario Washington rejects.

While U.N. aid officials have welcomed the scheme as a supplement to more extensive ground operations, they questioned Mr. Aspin's assertion that the initiative had helped to free the flow of land convoys previously blocked by the Serbs.

No U.N.-sponsored land convoys have reached besieged Muslims since the airdrops — which parachuted supplies to Cerska, Zepa and Konjic — began.

An 11-truck convoy with nearly 70 tonnes of aid for Gorazde which left Belgrade Tuesday was supposed to reach the town on the same day but had been held by 60 kilometres from their in Serb-held Podromanija, aid agency officials said.

"We've been told (by the Serbs) we're free to go to Gorazde and Zepa but we still don't have any permission to go to the famous three — Cerska, Srebrenica and Konjic Polje," UNHCR official Tony Land said in Sarajevo.

"I'm not looking for token single convoys. I'm looking for continuous access," he said.

The Clinton administration has hailed Russia's announced participation in the Bosnian airdrop as a milestone of post-cold war cooperation.

"It's very important that they

participate," Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall told reporters Tuesday. "They have a tremendous military capability."

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, after a meeting with President Bill Clinton, also welcomed Russia's participation. "I think this is a good signal," Mr. Woerner told reporters in the White House driveway.

"I know that the new administration sees it the same way," NATO, hoping for the key role in enforcing an international peace plan for Bosnia, sent a delegation to the U.N. Wednesday to discuss sensitive problems over which exactly would run the peacekeeping operation.

Alliance sources say it is unclear how the United Nations would work with the U.S.-led NATO military Command and how other countries such as Russia or neutrals like Sweden would fit in to the operation, once a peace agreement is reached.

The four-man delegation, headed by NATO's top defence planner, was due to meet U.N. officials later Wednesday. Alliance sources said they would discuss the difficult — and highly political — issues of command and control.

Mr. Woerner said the alliance should be given the job and seemed to express irritation with the United Nations.

"No one is better placed than NATO to steer a complicated military operation... who else could do it?" he asked in an interview broadcast on German television Wednesday.

Mr. Clinton was meeting first



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and Vice President Al Gore (right) talk with House Minority leader Bob Michel, as they walk through Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol (AFP photo)

Clinton woos sceptical Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House sparred with Republicans in Congress over the merits of the administration's economic programme even as President Bill Clinton was lobbying Republican lawmakers for their support.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole opened the day with criticism of Mr. Clinton's package, calling it a tax heavy plan that took the wrong approach to cutting the budget deficit.

In a quick counterattack, the White House pointed out that the national debt had quadrupled to more than \$4 trillion during the past 12 years of Republican administrations.

Republicans have talked tough about deficit reduction but the deficit has kept going up, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said. "The Republicans have yet to put forward any specific spending cuts."

The charges and counter charges were a prelude to meetings in Capitol Hill between Mr. Clinton and House and Senate Republicans.

Mr. Clinton was meeting first

with House Republicans before walking across the Capitol to lunch with the 43 Republicans in the 100 seat Senate. It was Mr. Clinton's first visit to Capitol Hill to meet only with Republicans, the minority in both the House and Senate.

Perhaps to steel himself for the trip into politically hostile territory, the president was meeting first at the White House with the Democratic leadership of Congress. Asked if he was seeking more spending cuts, as the Republicans urge, Mr. Clinton said, "I expect there will be a lot more as we go along."

Sen. Dole, in a television interview, said Republicans were willing to give Mr. Clinton a hearing.

"There could be" Republican support for the plan in the end "if he's serious about wanting to negotiate," Sen. Dole said. "We are not making an effort to lock everybody in... He may not have the votes yet on the Democratic side."

Republicans have been saying that Mr. Clinton's programme

lacks tough spending reductions to match the higher taxes he wants.

Meanwhile with an ally in the White House for the first time in years, gun control advocates are pushing hard for national restrictions while getting mixed results in state battles with a gun lobby once considered all powerful.

New Jersey and Virginia are at the forefront of the state battles, which President Clinton plunged into Monday with pointed criticism of the National Rifle Association (NRA). He said the NRA and others are "fixated" on defending the right to bear arms to the degree they ignore violent crime.

There is evidence that the

NRA's absolute opposition to restrictions has caused cracks in the organisation's imposing political strength. For example, many Virginia lawmakers complained about the NRA's absolutism and what they considered strong arm tactics before adopting a measure last week to limit handgun purchases.

COLUMN

Simon, Garfunkel perform in charity concert

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Simon and Garfunkel played such hits as Sounds of Silence and Bridge Over Troubled Water in a benefit that raised \$1 million for the Los Angeles children's health project. Neil Young offered comedy between sets. Celebrities in the audience included Jack Nicholson, Alec Baldwin, Kim Basinger and David Crosby. Tickets cost \$100 to \$500. "You've done your part — now it's up to us," Paul Simon told the crowd as he introduced Young, who opened the show at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Simon and Art Garfunkel — in a rare reunion performance — joined Young to sing Helpless, blending their smooth harmonies with Young's thin, haunting voice. Young sat in on Sounds of Silence. The Children's health project is a travelling programme for homeless youngsters already established in several other cities. It was organised by the Children's Health Fund, created in 1987 by Simon and a doctor. Simon and Garfunkel broke up over personal and professional differences shortly after winning a Grammy in 1970 for Bridge Over Troubled Water. They reunited in 1980 for a concert in New York's Central Park and again in 1983.

Former Indonesian first lady released from jail

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Former Indonesian first lady Dewi Sukarno, who slashed the face of a fellow jet setter, is a free woman again and says she enjoyed her 36 days in jail. She now has 30 days to leave the country because the conviction violated her immigration status. While she was processed out of the jail Monday, a limousine driver carried out six loads of clothes and other personal items. She described her jail stay as "a precious experience." "I will treasure it the rest of my life," Mrs. Sukarno said as she left the Pitkin County Jail Monday. "I liked it immediately from the first day... I'm going to miss my life in jail. It was great." Mrs. Sukarno, 52, received 24 days off her 60 day sentence for good behaviour. During her sentence she also performed 100 hours of court-ordered community service at the Aspen Centre for Environmental Studies and St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Mad dogs and Englishman

EDALE, England (R) — Police trying to recover a dead man's body from his house killed 11 dogs and eight cats with drugged meat posted through the letterbox. More than 30 furious canines were guarding the body of Leo Brown after he died of a heart attack in this central English village. His wife could not handle the animals and called the police, who said the dogs were trained to be vicious. Tranquilisers in meat were over-effective. "The dose was too much for them, and some of the dogs died, and subsequently eight of the cats... but for the bigger dogs, it just made them a bit woozy (sleepy)," police said. Four cats and 22 dogs survived.

Now where did I put those forceps?

BANGKOK (R) — The family of an old Thai woman who died after a gallstone operation were in for a second shock when they received her ashes — inside were a pair of forceps. The director of Samprasitprabong Hospital in northern Ubong Ratchani province said he had ordered an investigation after receiving a complaint from the relatives. "I am quite sure the doctor's tool did not cause the death as the patient died from a gallstone infection," Dr. Napa Singkuna told Reuters. "We are only investigating whether the forceps belong to us."

Politicians in the dark

BANGKOK (R) — Government officials met in the dark and traffic snarls were worse than usual in most of Bangkok Wednesday after a one-hour power outage. Savit Bhothiwat, a cabinet minister attached to the prime minister's office, held talks with the Japanese ambassador in the dark. Channel Nine television reported. Congestion workers cut an underground cable near one of the main power distribution points by mistake, officials said. Police said work was knocked off the air and traffic lights went out, adding to the woes of motorists trapped in the city's usual traffic jams.

Mitterrand to seek curb on presidential powers

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand said Tuesday that constitutional reforms he will propose to the cabinet on March 10 will include curbs on presidential authority to invoke emergency powers.

Mr. Mitterrand told French media that he will ask that Article 16 of the constitution be stricken. It gives the president exceptional powers during a national emergency.

"I preferred a pure and simple striking of this article, rather than a new version," Mr. Mitterrand told French journalists.

The powers have been invoked only once, by President Charles De Gaulle in 1961 during an attempted putsch by French army generals opposed to Gen. De Gaulle's intention to give Algeria independence.

Mr. Mitterrand's disclosure marked the first significant glimpse of a constitutional reform process the president set in motion last fall in a bid to revive his sagging popularity. He said he intended to give parliament more powers and trim executive authority.

The Fifth Republic constitution in force since Gen. De Gaulle's return to power in 1958 gives the president some of the strongest powers in a Western democracy.

The president serves a seven year term, appoints and fires prime ministers, controls foreign and defence policy, and can dissolve parliament and call new elections.

Under Article 16, the president, after consultations with the prime minister and leaders of the National Assembly and Senate, may invoke dictatorial powers if the nation faces an immediate internal or foreign threat.

The proposal to strike the article drew immediate criticism from Alain Juppe, secretary-general of the Rally For the Republic Party that is Gen. De Gaulle's heir.

"This is a short-view decision. We oppose it," Mr. Juppe said. "Who can say what the situation will be like in France in five, 10, 15 years? Will France never again know exceptional circumstances?"

No one can say. Mr. Mitterrand, who long criticised Gen. De Gaulle's constitution as undemocratic, promised to reform the charter when he was opposition leader but made little effort to do so after his election in 1981.

As his popularity slid in recent years, Mr. Mitterrand held out the carrot of change and finally made several proposals last fall to the Constitutional Council, France's highest constitutional authority.

Details have not been disclosed, but the president is not believed to have offered a significant reduction in the presidential term, demanded by conservative opponents who urge his resignation.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

45 Sikh rebels surrender in Punjab

BATALA, India (AP) — Gurnam Singh Jaura has killed 14 people, fought gun battles with police 10 times, and lived on the run changing hideouts every week — for the last six years. But the 30-year-old Sikh became fed up with his life as a guerrilla commander and recently surrendered to police in Batala town, a stronghold of the Sikh rebels. On Tuesday, Jaura and 44 other militants laid down their weapons at a police ceremony attended by 2,000 villagers and police officers, including the state police chief, K.P.S. Gill. They did so to avoid being captured or killed by police, not because they were offered a deal by the government, Mr. Gill said. About 650 guerrillas have given up since February 1992 when an elected government took over the northern state, ending seven years of largely ineffective federal rule, authorities say.

Peacekeepers arrive on Tajik border

MOSCOW (R) — A battalion of peacekeeping troops from Kyrgyzstan has taken up positions on the troubled border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, ITAR-TASS News Agency said Wednesday. The battalion is the first of four to be sent to reinforce border guards trying to prevent Muslim rebels crossing the frontier. TASS did not say when the Kyrgyz force arrived. On Tuesday, TASS said two Russian border guards were killed in fresh clashes in Tajikistan. The guards also have to deal with thousands of refugees fleeing a bloody clan conflict rocking the Central Asian state.

Philippine volcano erupts again

LEGAZPI, Philippines (R) — The Philippine volcano Mayon blasted out flaming ash in a new eruption Wednesday as rain swept mud and boulders down its slopes. No casualties were reported but relief officials ordered one road closed to motorists because rivers of mud had made it dangerous. A five-minute earthquake rocked the volcano as it hurled ash and other debris one kilometre into the air, volcanologists said. The blast also sent rocks left by previous eruptions tumbling four kilometres down Mayon's slopes, but the avalanche of debris did not reach villages around the mountain, they said. Mayon, which killed 73 people when it first exploded into life a month ago, last erupted Monday when it spewed lava, ash and sand. The series of eruptions has forced tens of thousands of villagers living within a 10-kilometre danger zone to flee their homes.

2 IRA suspects arrested

LONDON (R) — Two suspected Irish guerrillas were arrested after an apparent battle with police searching for the bombers of Harrods Department Store. Police said at least one shot was fired by the suspects and one of the two men suffered a head injury during the arrest by anti-terrorist police at a house in north London. It was not immediately clear how the head injury occurred but a police spokesman said he did not believe officers at the scene had opened fire. The men were arrested after a tip-off following the release earlier Tuesday of a security video showing two men walking near Harrods 30 minutes before a small bomb exploded outside the luxury London store in January. Three people were injured in the Harrods blast, claimed by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) as part of their battle to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Support for Miyazawa 'founders'

TOKYO (R) — Support for scandal-plagued Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa continues to bump along the bottom, with voters angry over the faltering economy and lack of political reforms, a major newspaper said Wednesday. A nationwide poll of 2,294 voters published by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper found fewer than one in four voters, just 24 per cent, were happy with Mr. Miyazawa's cabinet. The figure was fractionally more encouraging for the government than a poll conducted by the same daily last December when the support rating hit a record low of 20 per cent. Mr. Miyazawa's cabinet was at its most popular shortly after he took office in November 1991, with an approval rating of 54 per cent of people.

Russian suicide rate jumps 18%

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's economic turmoil is reflected in its latest demographics, a newspaper reported Tuesday, noting that suicides are up 18 per cent and the population has dropped for the first time since World War II. "It is a direct reflection of the crisis in our society," the daily Izvestia wrote in an article based on figures from the State Committee For Statistics. "These figures are frightening," said a committee expert quoted by the newspaper. A dropping birth rate and a rising mortality rate combined to reduce Russia's population by 40,000 to 140 million, it said. It said Russia lost 250,000 people to deaths from unnatural causes — including suicide, homicide, infant mortality and accidents — last year alone.

Vietnam rejects U.N. charges

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Vietnam Wednesday rejected charges by U.N. peacekeepers that it had violated a peace accord by leaving former soldiers behind in Cambodia.

The accord, signed by Vietnam and Cambodia's four factions in 1991, says all "foreign forces" must be withdrawn from Cambodia. Vietnam said it met the requirement in 1989.

The U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia said Monday it found three former Vietnamese soldiers, two of whom were serving in the army or militia of the Vietnamese installed government in Phnom Penh. All three were married to Cambodian women and had children by them.

A statement issued in Phnom Penh Wednesday by Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said Vietnam was not responsible for the men because they had been demobilised between eight and 10 years ago. It interpreted foreign forces as people still serving their governments.

Yeltsin says foreign, military confusion harmful

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday said a lack of clear-cut military and foreign policy guidelines was helping to destabilise Russia, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

Mr. Yeltsin told the country's Security Council that Moscow could brook no further delay in working out new policies.

"Lagging behind with military and foreign policy doctrines is working towards the destabilisation of Russia and provoking a lot of political speculation," the agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling the closed meeting.

"As long as this question remains unsolved there will be no systematic character to our international actions or to the realisation of Russia's national interests," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin and parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov are engaged in a power struggle which has effectively paralysed the country.

Ministers are also having to fend off attacks from hardliners who accuse the government of abandoning foreign and military policy in its haste to become a lapdog of the West.

In particular, they have savaged the decision to withdraw troops from the Eastern Europe and moves to coordinate foreign policy with Washington.

"The danger is that apart from making groundless criticisms of what we're doing, people are talking more and more about the strategic goals of the political leadership of Russia and other questions," Mr. Yeltsin told the Security Council.

The Foreign Ministry last month presented parliament with a blueprint of policy priorities

which currying favour with the West was one of the main weaknesses of the recent past.

The document, which represented a sharp change of outlook by the ministry, strongly hinted Moscow favoured regaining the superpower status it lost when the Soviet Union collapsed.

It echoed opposition claims, which the ministry used to dismiss out of hand, that Russia should remain a dominant power in the former Soviet Union as well as in Eastern Europe.

"As long as we do not have a foreign policy concept and a military doctrine, we will have to adopt a defensive position. The Russian Armed Forces have never behaved in that way, only staying in defence," Mr. Yeltsin said.

No one was available in Mr. Yeltsin's press office to clarify his comments on the armed forces.

The Security Council, was formed last year to oversee all issues concerning Russia's external and internal security.

Interfax News Agency said the heads of the armed forces, the chief of the Foreign Intelligence Service as well as the ministers of foreign affairs, defence, security and justice were present at Wednesday's meeting.

One area of combined foreign and military policy which is currently bothering Moscow is a major row with Ukraine over who controls former Soviet nuclear weapons on Ukrainian soil.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev Tuesday said there would be no point in further Russian officials say the 176 strategic missiles stationed in Ukraine should be transferred to Moscow's jurisdiction from the

ing available on world markets poses the No. 1 threat, Iran being a possible purchaser with its large oil revenue.

Michael Krepon, of the Henry L. Stimson Centre, said the fact that experts disagree on where the worst threat lies underscores the seriousness of the post-cold war danger from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as trade in conventional weapons.

The fact that so many former Soviet nuclear scientists and engineers may be lured away by other countries adds to the threat, he said.

The panel of witnesses agreed that the Clinton administration should have more prominent people to deal with the nuclear proliferation threat, either in the State or Defence Departments or both, as well as the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which has lately played only a weak role.

Mr. Freedenberg, former under secretary of commerce, said that export controls are a major means of stemming proliferation, but they pose a dilemma. "Controlling the export of Un-

ited States products and technology costs jobs and stifles growth in our most competitive sectors," he told the committee.

He said U.S. export growth has been particularly strong to China, India, the Pacific rim and the Middle East, where there also is a market for weaponry.

"Haphazard liberalisation of export controls in order to take advantage of these growth poses dangers of proliferations and the erosion of U.S. strategic superiority," he said.

But Mr. Freedenberg said international cooperation can lead to an enhancement of U.S. export competitiveness while still protecting U.S. security and foreign interests.

So far, however, he said non-proliferation rules have been "overlapping and confusing," with most exporters ill equipped to make judgments based on the vague standards.

The result is "the worst of two worlds," he said, with cautious American companies losing profits and other countries still able to obtain weapons technology or products from other sources.

Commonwealth of Independent States and be part of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Ukraine says they should stay under Commonwealth command but that Kiev should exercise "administrative control," or responsibility for troop units at nuclear sites.

Meanwhile, Russia's Baltic Fleet will cut its numerical strength by 39 per cent eventually and will start removing ships from the three Baltic states this year, a naval commander said in remarks published Tuesday.

Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral Vladimir Yegorov told the Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) military newspaper that the fleet will soon withdraw outdated missile submarines and some modern ones from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

"All in all, we will have to withdraw hundreds of units from the Baltic states," Adm. Yegorov told the newspaper. "But the fleet will remain a normal combat ready structure with two naval bases in Baltic and Kronstadt."

He said the entire fleet will shrink by 39 per cent in the long term, but did not say when this would happen.

The Baltic Fleet has about 40,000 to 60,000 servicemen, according to Cmdr. Geoffrey Dryant of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Adm. Bryant said that Western experts have been hearing for eight to nine months that the Baltic Fleet would be reduced by some 35 per cent. He said the fleet has 17 submarines.

Adm. Yegorov told Krasnaya Zvezda that the fleet should not

leave its bases in the Estonian capital of Tallinn and the Latvian ports of Riga and Liepaya before building new port facilities and housing in Balvik.

A lack of housing for Russian servicemen returning from the former Soviet republics and Eastern Bloc countries after the Soviet collapse has delayed their withdrawal.

In the interview, Adm. Yegorov praised Lithuania, calling it the Baltic state with the "most far sighted policy" in addressing the issues of the Baltic Fleet on its territory.

In September, Lithuania suggested building housing for families of Russian servicemen leaving the republic in exchange for vessels and equipment from the Baltic Fleet.

Lithuania's Deputy Foreign Minister Voldemaras Katkus said his country would build housing for 10,000 people in Russia's Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad over 2½ years. In exchange, Lithuania would receive two torpedo boats, two small antisubmarine ships, a repair base and armaments.

Adm. Yegorov also applauded Lithuania's policy of allowing Russian sailors to privatise their apartments on its territory.

"One such step by Latvia and Lithuania would be enough to solve many problems," Adm. Yegorov said. "But they haven't made this step."

He added that he regrets surrendering the former Red Army's best Baltic naval bases to the now independent Baltic states.

"I feel bitter about losing priceless assets built by many generations of people, but such is life," he said.